

ALASKA

AND THE

GOLD FIELDS

OF THE

YUKON, KOYUKUK, TANANA

KLONDIKE

AND THEIR TRIBUTARIES,



BY THE

NORTH-AMERICAN TRANSPORTATION AND TRADING CO.

GENERAL OFFICES:
THE ROOKERY, - CHICAGO, ILL.

PACIFIC COAST OFFICE:
SEATTLE, WASH.

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Schwabacher Hardware Company,

WHOLESALE DEALERS IN

Hardware, Iron, Steel, Etc.

Shelf Hardware and Cutlery,

Mining, Milling and Logging Supplies,

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ALASKA

AND THE

GOLD FIELDS

North American Transportation & Trading Company.

DRAFTS PAYABLE IN ALASKA.

For the convenience of persons wishing to send funds to friends or representatives in Alaska, and for those wishing to avoid carrying a large amount of currency on their person to Alaska; the Chicago Office of the North American Transportation and Trading Co. issues drafts on their Posts at Dawson, Fort Cudahy and Circle City at a Minimum charge of 2 per cent. These drafts are payable in gold dust at the current rate of exchange, which in 1898 was calculated at \$16.00 per ounce.

Apply to Chicago Office, 729-731 Rookery Building.

BY THE

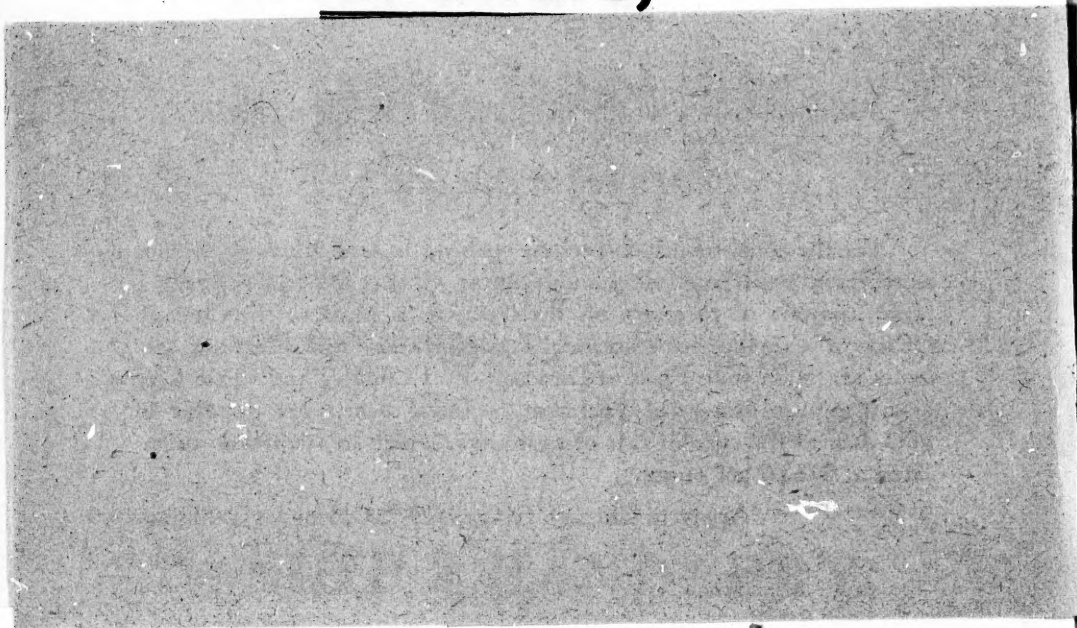
NORTH AMERICAN TRANSPORTATION
AND TRADING CO.

**The Arctic Institute
of
North America**

Schwabacher Hardware Company,

WHOLESALE DEALERS IN _____

Hardware,



_____ and Cordage.



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ALASKA.

In presenting this pamphlet to the public we do so, giving them the most authentic information that it is possible to get in regard to this new and wonderful country. The great extent of the Yukon Basin necessitates the publication of this pamphlet each year as the developments made by its mining and prospecting population are so rapid that new matter is absolutely essential in order that the outside world may keep thoroughly posted and up to date on Alaska matters. With each arrival from the interior of Alaska, new stories of rich strikes are brought down and the steady stream of northbound prospectors increases. There is no country at present that offers such splendid opportunities to the young man as Alaska. If he has capital he can purchase and develop mines or engage in business of various kinds. If he is without means he can locate a mine and work it for himself or he can secure employment through many different sources at good wages.

The transportation facilities have been so increased during the past year that the trip from Seattle to any Yukon point, instead of being one of hardship, is really a recreation trip, landing the passenger at destination full of new life and vigor. Supplies of all kinds can now be purchased at any of the N. A. T. & T. Co.'s numerous stores, at reasonable prices.

NORTH AMERICAN TRANSPORTATION
AND TRADING COMPANY.

THE ALASKA

TO

AMERICA

History of the Company.

The history of the North American Transportation and Trading Company exhibits a remarkable growth, and is largely due to the business genius, courage and executive ability of Portus B. Weare, John Cudahy and Capt. John Healy. It was Capt. Healy who in 1892 induced P. B. Weare and John Cudahy to invest in what has proven to be such a successful enterprise. Capt. Healy had for a number of years been identified with mining and trading on the frontier of Montana and Idaho, and just previous to the time he saw Mr. Weare and Mr. Cudahy, had been conducting a trading post at Dyea, Alaska, for seven years. It was here that he heard from prospectors coming out from the interior that the Yukon country offered great opportunities for the establishment of a trading and transportation company that would work in harmony with the natives and try and build up the country. It was with this view in sight that he landed in Chicago and found a congenial mind in P. B. Weare, who aided him in establishing a company with a paid up capital of \$50,000.

In April, 1892, J. J. Healy, J. C. Barr and C. H. Hamilton came to Seattle in company with Mr. Weare. Here they chartered the steamer "Alice Blanchard", sailing for St. Michaels in July, and taking with them material and machinery for a river steamer, the "P. B. Weare"; also a stock of 300 tons of supplies. They landed at St. Michaels after a voyage of 29 days, and there put together the river steamer, starting up the Yukon in the latter part of September, first, however, building a log house at St. Michaels and leaving an Indian in charge. At Nulato, about 600 miles up the river, the steamer unfortunately was frozen in for the winter, which put a stop to operations that year. As soon as the river opened in 1893, the steamer proceeded on her voyage and arrived at Fort Cudahy, where the company established its first trading post.

In the summer of 1894 another stock of supplies was sent in

via St. Michaels, where a post was now established. This shipment was met at St. Michaels by the steamer "Weare" and successfully carried to Forty Mile, the post at Ft. Cudahy doing a constantly increasing business.

Capt Healy came out in the fall of '94, for the first time. He went direct to Chicago and purchased the supply of goods for the ensuing year, and returned to Alaska with them. In the meantime the capital of the company was increased to \$100,000. A new post at Circle City was established in 1895, and the post at St. Michaels considerably enlarged. Mr. Ely E. Weare, at that time president of the company, went in to Alaska in the spring of 1896, taking with him a large supply of merchandise. The second river boat, the "John J. Healy," was built this year, but no new posts were established, although the one at St. Michaels was again enlarged. The capital stock of the company was increased to \$450,000 and Mr. Michael Cudahy, Ernest A. Hamill and Chas. L. Hutchinson taken into membership.

It was in 1897 that the attention of the world was directed to Alaska, and it was a notable year for the N. A. T. & T. Co. A third river boat was built, the "C. H. Hamilton," and stations opened at Weare and Rampart. Two hotels were built at St. Michaels, each having a capacity of 200 guests, and large docks and warehouses were built under the direction of the company's agent.

In the winter of '97 the contract was let for four new river boats, the "John Cudahy," "T. C. Power," "J. C. Barr" and "Klondike," and the capital of the company was increased to \$1,000,000.

The elegant ocean S. S. Roanoke was purchased in the spring of 1898, and placed on the Seattle-St. Michaels run. She is a beautiful steamer and very popular with Alaska travelers. Capt. Healy came out on the last trip of the "Roanoke" in the fall of '98, and arranged for the purchase of merchandise for the various stores in Alaska for the 1899 trade. A change in officers was made at the annual meeting of the directors and stockholders, whose names will be found on a succeeding page.

OFFICERS OF THE COMPANY.

Following is a list of the officers of the North American Transportation and Trading Company with their several addresses. Little more need be said of them than that they are gentlemen of integrity and high standing, most favorably known to the public in connection with this interest, and that their names alone are a guarantee of the company's resolve to do all that is possible for the welfare and convenience of intending settlers in Alaska.

EXECUTIVE.

MICHAEL CUDAHY, President,	- - -	Chicago, Ill.
JOHN H. DWIGHT, Vice-President,	- - -	Chicago, Ill.
JOHN J. HEALY, General Manager,	-	Dawson, N. W. T.
C. A. WEARE, Treasurer.	- - -	Chicago, Ill.
ULRIC KING, Sec'y & Asst. Treas.,	-	Chicago, Ill.

DIRECTORS.

MICHAEL CUDAHY,	- - - -	Chicago, Ill.
JOHN CUDAHY,	- - - -	Chicago, Ill.
J. H. DWIGHT,	- - - -	Chicago, Ill.
P. B. WEARE,	- - - -	Chicago, Ill.
C. A. WEARE,	- - - -	Chicago, Ill.
ELY E. WEARE,	- - - -	Dawson, N. W. T.
JOHN J. HEALY,	- - - -	Dawson, N. W. T.

TRAFFIC.

A. N. GRAY,	General Traffic Manager,	-	Chicago, Ill.
E. G. McMICKEN,	Gen'l Frt. and Passenger Agent,		Seattle, Wash.

ACCOUNTING.

R. S. BUCHANAN, Auditor,	- - - -	Chicago, Ill.
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LEGAL.

FREDERICK BAUSMAN, Attorney,	- - -	Seattle, Wash.
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GENERAL OFFICES,

729-731 THE ROOKERY, CHICAGO, ILL.

PACIFIC COAST OFFICE:

Cor. Yesler and Occidental Aves., Seattle, Wash.

The Company's Headquarters,



OFFICES

AND

STORES.



Since the establishment of the North American Transportation and Trading Co., stores and offices have been opened and maintained at the following places:

GENERAL OFFICES:

729-731 THE ROOKERY, CHICAGO, ILL.

PACIFIC COAST OFFICE:

Cor Yesler and Occidental Avenues, Seattle, Washington.

ALASKA HEADQUARTERS.

HEALY, St. Michaels Island.

HAMILTON, Yukon River.

WEARE, Yukon River.

PEAVY, Koyukuk River.

RAMPART, Yukon River.

FORT YUKON, Yukon River.

CIRCLE, Yukon River.

EAGLE, Yukon River.

FORT CUDAHY, Yukon River.

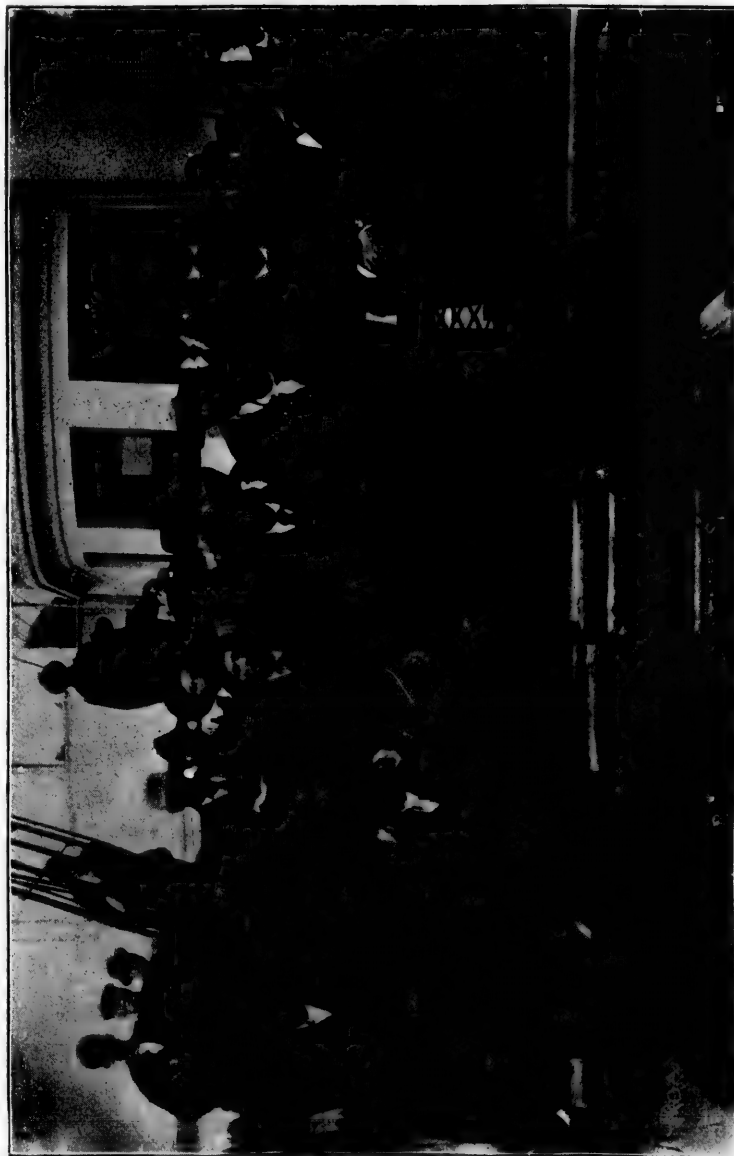
DAWSON, Yukon River.

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Yukon River.
Yukon River.



Returning Miners with Gold on N. A. T. & T. Co.'s Treasure Ship "Roanoke."

North American Transportation & Trading Co. Fleet.

OCEAN STEAMSHIPS.

"S. S. ROANOKE"—Lloyds register, A1. Iron hull, three decks, single screw.

Length, 300 feet; beam 41 feet.

Tonnage, 1654; passenger capacity, 500; electric lighted.

Speed, 15 knots; draft, 18 feet.

Engines, Compound Surface Condensing.

Armament, one one-pounder rapid fire maxim gun.

RIVER STEAMERS—Freight and Passenger.

"J. C. BARR"—Iron hull; flat bottom; stern wheel.

Built 1898; registered tonnage 160; electric lighted.

Fastest trip St. Michaels to Dawson, 15 days.

"P. B. WEARE"—Wood hull; flat bottom; stern wheel.

Built 1892; registered tonnage, 300.

"JOHN J. HEALY"—Wood hull; flat bottom; stern wheel.

Built 1896; registered tonnage, 300.

"JOHN CUDAHY"—Wood hull; flat bottom; stern wheel.

Length, 190 feet; beam, 32 feet; electric lighted.

Built 1898; registered tonnage, 250.

Fastest trip St. Michaels to Dawson, 12½ days; round trip, 18½.

"C. H. HAMILTON"—Wood hull; flat bottom; stern wheel.

Length, 190 feet; beam, 32 feet; electric lighted.

Built 1897; registered tonnage, 250.

"T. C. POWER"—Wood hull; flat bottom; stern wheel.

Length, 190 feet; beam, 32 feet; electric lighted.

Built 1898; registered tonnage, 250.

RIVER STEAMERS—Freight Only.

"KLONDIKE"—Wood hull; flat bottom; stern wheel.

Built 1898; tonnage, 75.

Towing capacity, 500 tons.

"ST. MICHAELS"—Wood hull; flat bottom; stern wheel.

Tonnage, 60; towing capacity, 300 tons.

OCEAN TUG.

"ERNEST A. HAMILL"—Iron hull and house.

Length, 105 feet; beam, 23 feet; tonnage, 163.

Built 1898; depth of hold, 9 feet 3 inches.

Two engines, 550 horse power each.

OCEAN SAILING VESSELS.

"SCHOONER MARY ANN"—Wooden hull; freighter; tonnage, 160.

"SCHOONER EDITH"—Wooden hull, freighter; tonnage, 20.

LAUNCHES.

"CELIA"—Wood hull; tonnage 60.

"NORDICA"—Wood hull; tonnage, 80.

RIVER FREIGHT BARGES.

"J. J. MITCHELL"—Wood hull; flat bottom.

Built 1898; tonnage, 180.

"C. L. HUTCHINSON"—Wood hull; flat bottom.

Built 1898; tonnage, 180.

"No. 3"—Wood hull; flat bottom.

Built 1898; tonnage, 180.

Co. Fleet.

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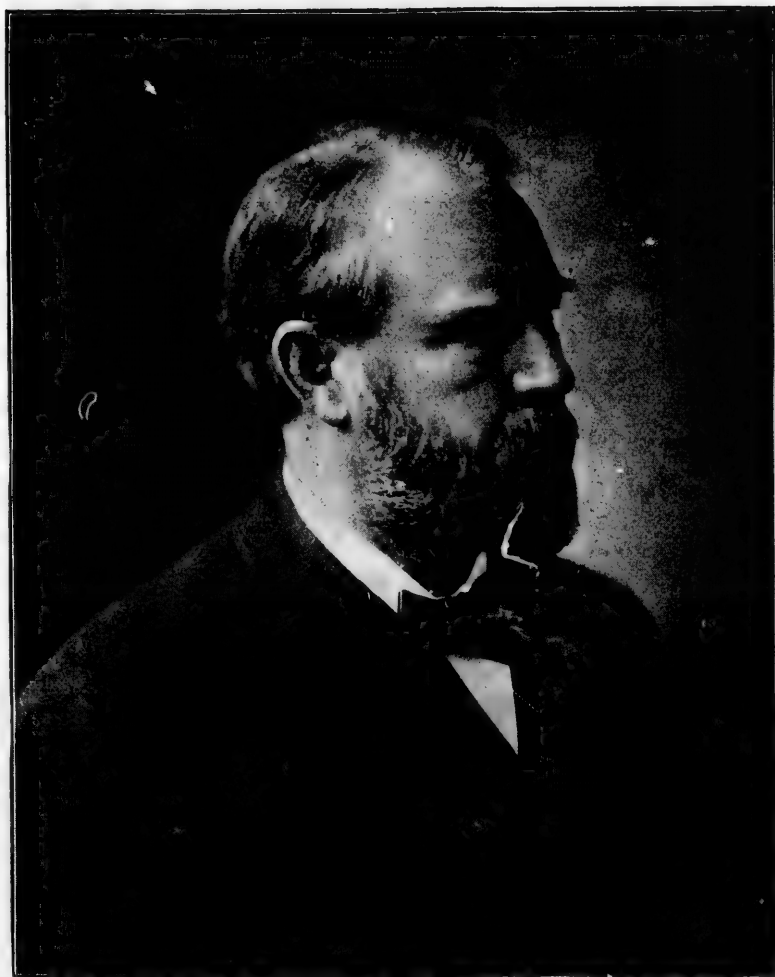
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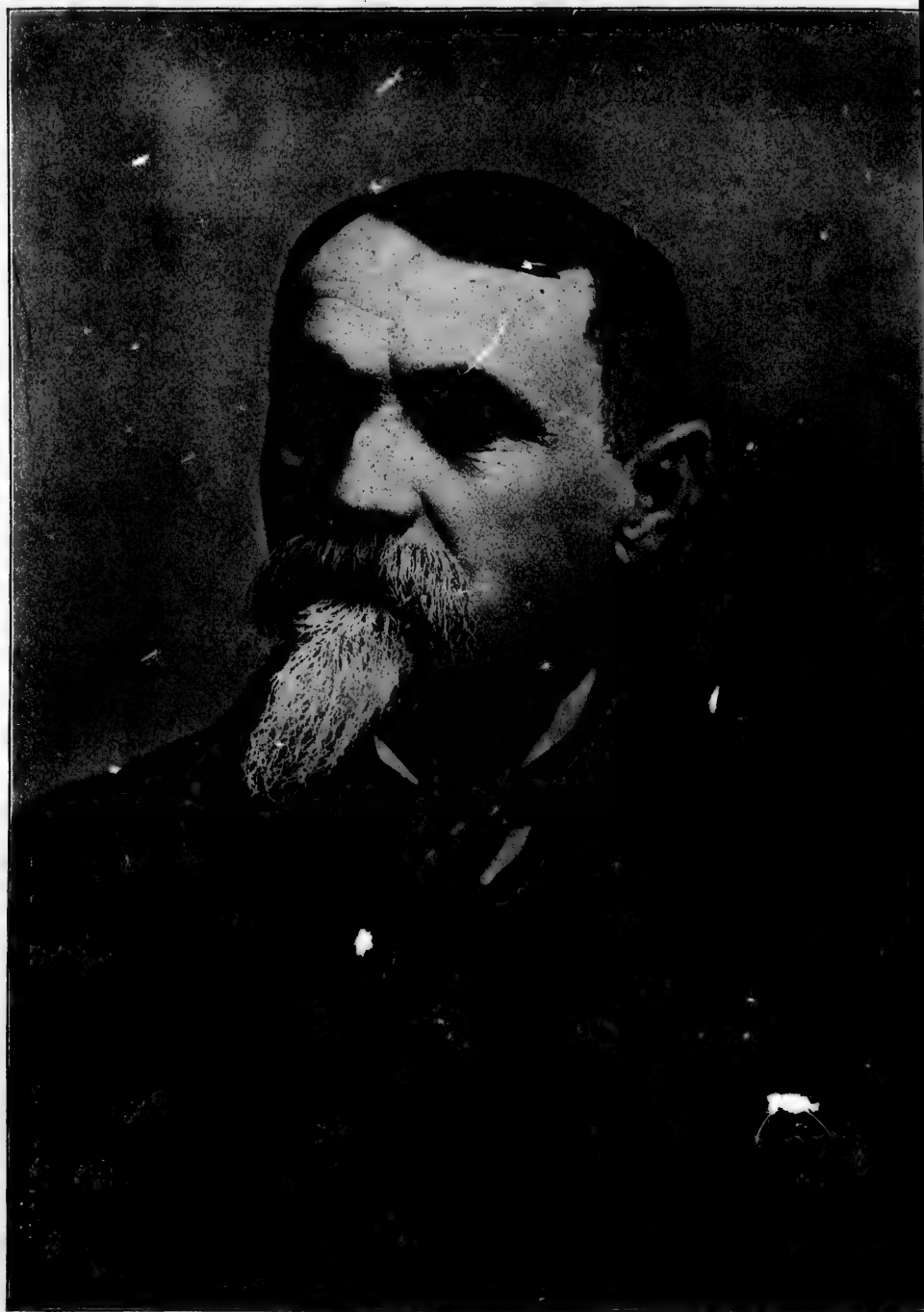
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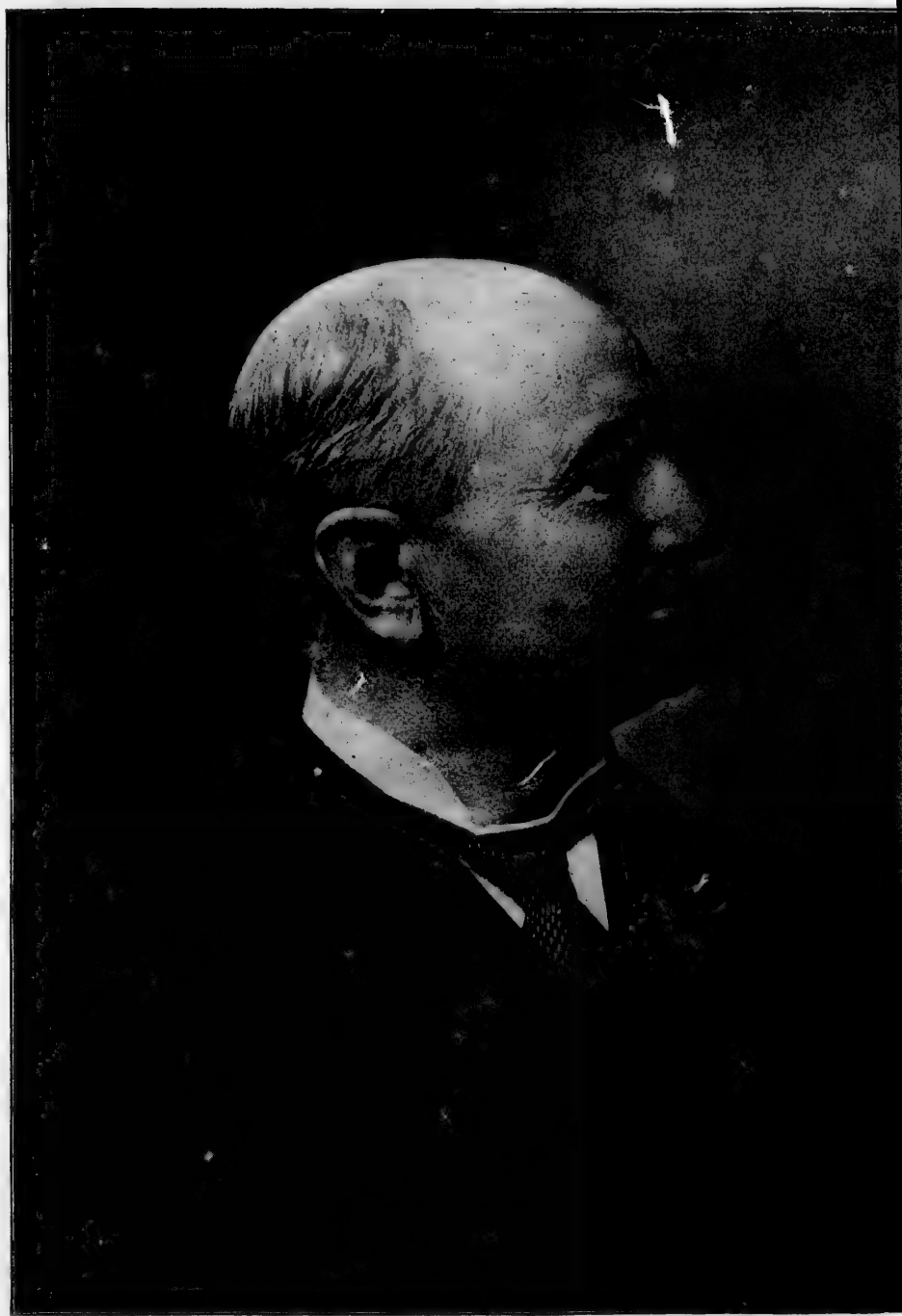
MICHAEL CUDAHY, President.



JOHN J. HEALY, General Manager.



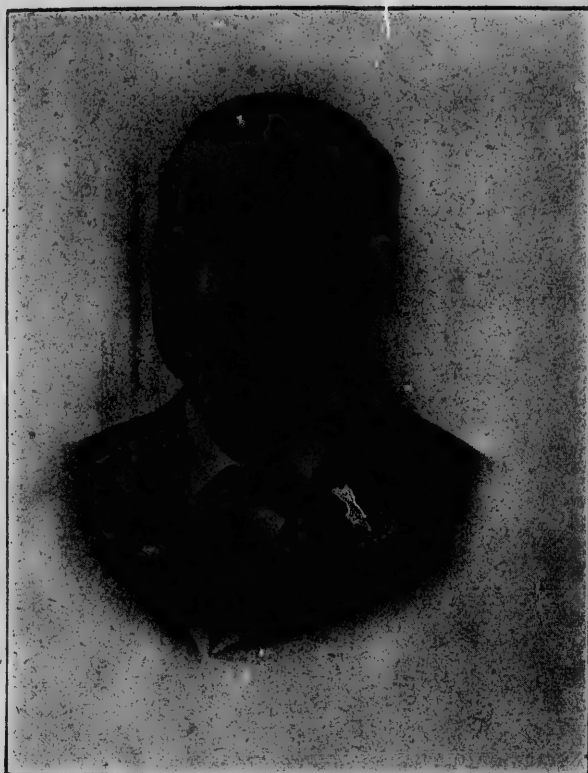
CHAS. A. WEARE, Treasurer.



PORTUS B. WEARE, Director.



JOHN CUDAHY, Director.



ELY E. WEARE, Director.

Eagle City District.



THE ALASKA TERRITORY.

Nuggets of Fact.

Some striking facts about Alaska and its great river are here thrown together, in their briefest form, so as promptly to inform the reader of the vastness and value of this wonderland of the north:

Alaska became ours 32 years ago.
Its coast line is 26,000 miles.
Area in square miles, 531,409.
Gold first discovered in 1878.
It has the greatest seal fisheries.
Whole forests break into the sea.
It has the greatest salmon fisheries.
It runs 1,500 miles west of Hawaii.
It has the largest river in the world.
Some streams are bridged by glaciers.
Estimated present population, 100,000.
Product of gold in 1898, \$14,000,000.
Snow shoes are needed in the country.
It has the best yellow cedar in the world.
Avalanches in the interior are unknown.
It has cod banks that beat Newfoundland.
It makes San Francisco east of our center.
It is as large as the South, including Texas.
The salmon pack for 1898 was 225,000 cases.
The Treadwell is one of its greatest gold mines.
It has the highest mountains in North America.
It is eight times as large as all of New England.
Estimated product of gold to date, \$55,000,000.
Alaska is two and one-half times as large as Texas.
It has the only forest-covered glacier in the world.
Some wood is beautifully polished by glacier action.
Owing to dryness there is not much suffering from cold.
Principal occupations of the natives, hunting and fishing.
When Alaska was annexed it only had 430 white residents.
One small tribe makes \$20,000 a year from silver-fox skins.
The Indian name "Al-ay-ek-sa" means "the great country."
Governor of the territory, James D. Brady; residence at Sitka.
Klondike in English is Deer River. The river is so designated on the maps.
The Klondike River is 40 yards wide at its mouth. Water shallow and clear—blue in color.
Purchased in 1867 from Russia for \$7,200,000; the purchase negotiated by William H. Seward.
The necessary eruptive force for the formation of great fissure veins is everywhere evident in Alaska.
Population (census of 1890,) 30,329, of whom but 4,416 were whites, 8,400 Esquimaux, and 13,735 Indians.

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great river are here
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and of the north:

Principal mountains: Mount Logan, altitude 19,500 feet; Mount St. Elias, 18,100; Mount Wrangel, 17,500 feet.

Principal cities: Sitka (the capital), Juneau, Skaguay, Healy, Weare, Rampart, Circle City, Eagle City and Cudahy.

It is as large as all the States east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio, including Virginia and West Virginia.

Yukon gold fields are partly in American and partly in British territory, the product is disposed of in the United States.

Hints for Trail and Camp.

The following bits of suggestion were based on the experience of the Klondike pioneers and will apply at least in part to all Alaskan gold-seekers:

On the road to the gold diggings, don't waste a single ounce of anything, even if you don't like it. Put it away, and it will come handy when you do like it.

If it is ever necessary to cache a load of provisions, put all articles next to the ground which would be most affected by heat, providing at the same time that dampness will not affect their food properties to any great extent. After piling your stuff, load it over carefully with heavy rocks. Take your compass bearings, and also note in your pocketbook some land marks near by, and also the direction in which they look from your cache—i. e., make your cache, if possible, come between exactly north and south of two given prominent marks. In this way, even though covered by snow, you can locate "your existence." Don't forget that it is so.

Shoot a dog, if you have to, behind the base of the skull, a horse between the ears, ranging downward. Press the trigger of your rifle; don't pull it; don't catch hold of the barrel when thirty degrees below is registered. Watch out for getting snow in your barrel. If you do, don't shoot it out.

A little dry grass or hay in the inside of your mitts, next your hands, will promote great heat, especially when it gets damp from the moisture of your hands. After the mitts are removed from the hands, remove the hay from the mitts and dry it. Failing that, throw it away.

If by any chance you are traveling across a plain (no trail) and a fog comes up, or a blinding snow storm, either of which will prevent your taking your bearings, camp and don't move for anyone until all is clear again.

Keep all your drawstrings on clothing in good repair. Don't forget to use your goggles when the sun is bright on snow. A fellow is often tempted to leave them off. Don't you do it.

If you build a sledge for extreme cold, don't use steel runners. Use wooden and freeze water on same before starting out. Repeat the process, if it begins to drag and screech.

If you cannot finish your rations for one day, don't put back any part, but put into your personal canvas outfit bag; you will need it later on.

Take plenty of tow for packing possible cracks in your boat; also two pounds of good puty, some canvas and, if possible, a small can of tar or white lead.



Greco-Russian Church, Unalaska.



**"S. S. Roanoke," Loaded with Gold Seekers, Leaving Seattle
for Healy, St. Michael's Island, 1898.**

Establish camp rules, especially regarding the food. Allot rations; those while idle should be less than when at work, and also pro rata during heat and cold.

Keep your furs in good repair. One little slit may cause you untold agony during a march in a heavy storm. You cannot tell when such will be the case.

Travel as much on clear ice towards your goal as possible in the spring. Don't try to pull sledges over snow, especially if soft or crusty.

Be sure, during the winter, to watch your foot gear carefully. Change wet stockings before they freeze, or you may lose a toe or foot.

In building a sledge use lashing entirely. Bolts and screws rack a sledge to pieces in rough going, while lashing will "give".

Keep the hood of your kooletah back from your head, if not too cold, and allow the moisture from your body to escape that way.

When your nose is bitterly cold, catch hold of it and pull and squeeze it.

Don't try to carry more than forty pounds of stuff the first day, anyway.

If your furs get wet, dry them in a medium temperature. Don't hold them near the fire.

No man can continuously drag more than his own weight. Remember that this is a fact.

In cases of extreme cold at toes and heel, wrap a piece of fur over each extremity.

Keep your sleeping bag clean. If it becomes inhabited, freeze the inhabitants out.

Remember success follows economy and persistency on an expedition like yours.

White snow over a crevasse if hard, is safe. Yellow or dirt color, never.

Don't eat snow or ice. Go thirsty until you can melt it.

Shoot a deer behind the shoulder or in the head.

Choose your bunk as far from tent door as possible.

Keep a fire-hole open near your camp.

Alaska Life in a Nutshell

Alaska is rich with gold, silver, copper and coal.

Men with stomach ailments or weak lungs should not venture in it.

Physically strong men live there with comfort and profit.

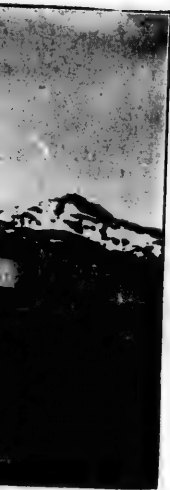
Inexperienced miners are not wanted and will fail oftener than they will succeed.

Provisions are not expensive when the freight haul necessary to get them there is considered.

The temperature ranges from forty to eighty degrees below in winter, but the air being so dry it is not severe.

American vegetables are easily raised.

The natives are peaceable, but the Greek Catholic Church is said to show much opposition to their learning English and to the coming of English speaking people.



ing Seattle

The Yukon:

It is larger than La Plata.

It is larger than the Danube.

It is larger than the Orinoco.

With its tributaries it is navigable 2,500 miles.

The water is fresh fifteen miles from its mouth.

Yukon basin gold is estimated at \$5,000,000,000.

It has more gold in its basin than any other river.

The Yukon River is not open at its mouth until after the 15th day of June.

Its color is beautifully blue to its junction with the White River, 1,100 miles above its mouth.

In purchasing transportation, remember that the North American Transportation & Trading Co. has had a line of steamers established on the Yukon River for over seven years.

A History in One Paragraph.

The northwest coast of that part of America embracing Alaska was discovered and explored by a Russian expedition under Behring in 1741, and at subsequent periods settlements were made by the Russians at various places, chiefly for the prosecution of the fur trade. In 1799 the territory was granted to a Russo-American fur company by Emperor Paul VIII, and in 1839 the charter of the company was renewed. New Archangel, in the island of Sitka, was the principal settlement, but the company maintained about forty stations. They exported annually 2,500 skins of the seal, sea otter, beaver, etc., besides about 20,000 sea-horse teeth. The company's privilege expired in 1863, and in 1867 the whole Russian possessions in America were ceded to the United States for a money payment of \$7,200,000. Possession was formally given over on the 18th of October following.

The Alaskan Climate:

Now that it has been tested by the experience of thousands the climate of the Alaskan territory is not such a terrible ordeal as it was formerly imagined. The short summer, extending from about the middle of June to about the middle of September, is part of the time intensely hot, unrelieved by the long nights of the temperate zone; and the winter with its long night and strangely long twilight, is not as unbearable as was supposed if one is provided against its severity and takes care to use suitable, but not excessive clothing.

A brief synopsis of the facts, as made by the officials of the Weather Bureau, states that "the climate of the interior, including practically all of the country except a narrow coast margin, is comparatively severe, though dry, in winter, with a short, but relatively hot summer, especially when the sky is free from cloud.

Greater cold than has yet been recorded in Alaska has been experienced in the United States for a very short time, but never has it continued so very cold for so long a time. In the interior of Alaska the winter sets in as early as September, when snowstorms may be expected in the mountains and passes.

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Ice Breaking Up on Yukon River, at Circle City, Alaska.

The changes of temperature from winter to summer are rapid, owing to the great increase in the length of the day. In May the sun rises about 3 A. M. and sets about 9 P. M. In June it rises at 1:30 o'clock in the morning and sets about 10:30 o'clock, giving about twenty hours of daylight and diffuse twilight the remainder of the time. The mean summer temperature in the interior doubtless ranges between 60 and 70 degrees, according to elevation, being highest in the middle and lower Yukon valleys.

A MODERN ELDORADO.

The Yukon and its Gold.

What the Nile is to Egypt, the Amazon to South America, the Mississippi to the interior of the United States, that and even more the Yukon is to Alaska. It is a great inland highway, which alone makes it possible for the explorer to penetrate the mysterious fastnesses of the still unknown region. Its present interest for us, however, is that it opens up a region of vast natural wealth and especially that its basin is found to be rich in gold.

Gold mining in the Yukon district may be said to have been initiated in 1880, though little was done in that year except a certain amount of prospecting by twenty-five or thirty miners, who entered by the way of Chilkoot Pass. Since then a yearly increasing number of miners have entered the country at various points, and river bars have been worked with good results on different parts of the Lewis and its tributary, the Teslinto (Hootalinqua) and on the Pelly and the Stewart rivers. In 1886 most of the work was done on the Stewart, but in consequence of the discovery of "coarse" gold on Forty Mile Creek, nearly all of the miners went to that place. This was the first discovery of coarse gold in the district, but since the rich creeks have been found out it may safely be predicted that many more will follow. Prospecting has so far been confined almost exclusively to the large rivers, and the mining to river-bar mining, but the fact has been developed that gold occurs in greater or less quantity on all the streams, and the extent of the gold-bearing river bars already known is, in the aggregate, almost unprecedented.

The Klondike Gold Region

Next to the name of the great river itself, that of the Klondike has become most familiar in connection with Alaskan gold seeking. As events are rapidly proving, this is not entirely due to any greater riches on this than some of the other tributaries, but to the fact that the gold of the Klondike district was the first to cause sensation in the cities of the United States, and thus lead to an influx of resolute miners.

Gold in the Klondike district was discovered by George Washington Carmack, a Californian. He spent three days prospecting on Bonanza creek, but found nothing satisfactory until he reached Discovery claim, about midway on the creek, where he panned out \$12

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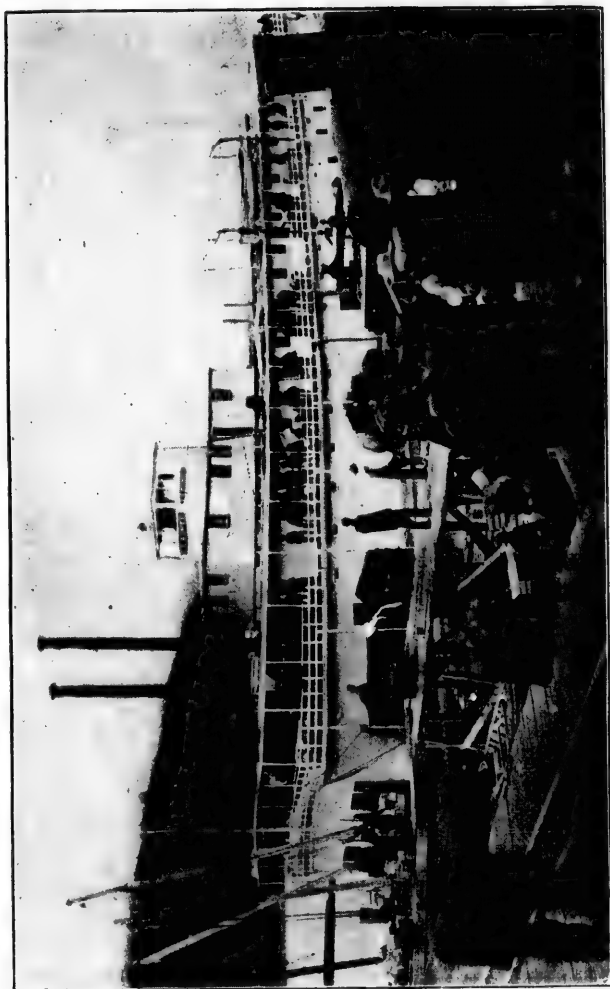
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N. A. T. & T. Co.'s steamer, "T. C. Power," discharging passengers and cargo at Dawson.

in a very few minutes. This was August 16, 1896. The next day he located for himself Discovery claim and No. 1 below. Nos. 1 and above were located for his two Indian associates, brothers of his Indian wife. Carmack then joined his family at the mouth of the Klondike, and soon after went to Forty Mile, where he related his good fortune.

This was the beginning of the Klondike. Forty Mile was quickly abandoned for the Klondike, as were also the diggings about Circle City. Still, the Klondike diggings were very different from those elsewhere on the Yukon, and it was months after Bonanza, Eldorado and surrounding creeks had been located and recorded before much faith was placed in any of them. The Yukon miners were used to surface mining and, as a rule, did not consider ground worth anything that did not pay from the surface down. Along the Klondike's tributaries the surface in many places was covered by moss and mud, and developments have shown that the rich gold bearing strata lie along the bed-rock, which are five to twenty feet below the surface. Many claims were sold in October and November, 1896, for as many dollars as they would now bring thousands. One claim on Eldorado creek was located by a young man who sold it a few days later for \$85. The purchaser never put a pick into it and sold it early in April, 1897 for \$31,000, Canadian money. Within six weeks afterward \$130,000 was taken out of this claim.

Within a year after Carmack's discovery the Klondike had produced over \$5,500,000, and by far the greater part of this was taken out between December and June.

Golovin Bay—A New Field.

The Golovin Bay and Fish River district, situated about 75 miles north from St. Michaels Island, was prospected for the first time during the fall of 1898. Prospects were not very encouraging until "Ophir" and "Melsing" Creeks, tributaries of the Neuckluck River, were prospected. Here excellent results were obtained, panings ranging from \$1.85 to \$22.00. The placers should be very easy to work, as bed rock is reached at a depth of from 3 to 8 feet, and the climate is not severe. Good timber about 18 inches thick and from 40 to 60 feet long, can be secured a short distance north of the Neuckluck River, which is the principal tributary of the Fish River. The most reliable map of this district will be found in the front of this pamphlet. It is a reduction from the original map made by Gifford Sumner.

There will be a great many people go to these new fields in 1899, and the "N. A. T. & T. Co.'s" route via Healy, St. Michaels Island, is the best.

Gold in all Directions.

It is well ascertained now that no one tributary of the Yukon can yet claim first place as a gold-producing water course. The country is very large. Gold-bearing gravel is found on nearly every creek, and every man who has provisions enough to carry him through the winter is mining on his own account. There are many unlucky ones, however, who can not find a pay streak for themselves and these have to starve or work for what wages they can get with other taking out gold by the pound all around them. They are the same kind of in-

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dividuals who sit all day on the pier unable to catch a puny perch, while their companions haul out fine bass by the score. Prospecting for gold is a curious lottery. One man skilled in the business and eager to make a rich strike, will carefully search over a strip of country without finding a trace of color. Along will come a tenderfoot, who doesn't know gold when he sees it. He will scratch away in the most unlikely of places, to the amusement of the wise ones and finally unearth a deposit of fabulous richness.

This is as strangely true of the Yukon country to-day as it was of California in '49. The fact is, gold appears unexpectedly in so many varying forms that even the best experts are frequently deceived. The richest deposits in the Klondike lie next to the bed rock and are inky black in color. The gravel over these contains bright yellow, dull yellow and reddish hued gold. These latter forms are easily recognized, but the black deposit is one that might be readily overlooked were it not that word of its true nature has gone forth throughout the whole country.

Source of Yukon Gold.

From a geological point of view it is mostly found practicable, in gold-producing regions, to trace back the previous metal to its rock-ribbed source. The case is different in Alaska. The geologists are all puzzled. The peculiar character of the deposit, buried next to bed rock under many feet of more recently formed earth, and mixed with a gravel which is now found only far under ground, gives plausibility to the theory that it was carried there ages ago by some monster glacier.

If this idea is correct, the gold now being dug must have been dug from some fabulously rich mother lode by the attrition of the ice. All over that region there are undeniable marks of glacial action. Valleys have been hewn through rocks which date far back in the world's formation by geological chronology. Boulders, smooth and rounded by being rolled onward, under an irresistible pressure, are found hundreds of miles away from the spot in which they were originally placed by the workings of nature. The very gravel which carries the gold is unlike any gravel to be met with above ground and wherever the bed rock has been uncovered it shows plain marks of the grinding process to which it has been subjected.

Along the valleys the sides of the rocky walls are creased in a manner which to the practiced observer, tells plainly of the force that did the wonderful work. It is along the creeks now running in these glacier formed valleys that the richest gold deposits have been discovered. There is no sign of volcanic action, no comingling of the gold with other metals, as is common in other parts of the world. It is simply pure, native gold, ground off from some huge block of the same material, from a "mother lode," as the miners call it. Where is this mother lode? Who knows? The course of the glacier was from the north. Perhaps the great source of gold supply lies in that direction; perhaps it has been entirely ground away by the glacier and its remnants are those now being garnered by the hardy prospectors of the Yukon. If the lode is still in existence, as a good many authorities believe, the man who finds it will have wealth at his command, beside which the riches of Croesus will be paled into insignificance.

Following tables are brought down to January 1, 1898, and exhibit respectively, the total product of gold for 1897 in the states and territories of the United States, as verified by the records of the United States mint and the product of gold in the various gold-producing countries of the world for the same period:

STATES.	GOLD.		STATES.	GOLD.	
	Quartz. Fine Ozs.	Placer. Fine Ozs.		Quartz. Fine Ozs.	Placer. Fine Ozs.
Alabama.....	409		N. Carolina.....	787	1,083
Alaska.....	85,178	32,836	Oregon.....	48,358	17,170
Arizona.....	121,439	620	S. Carolina.....	4,037	104
California.....	529,094	238,685	South Dakota.....	272,733	78
Colorado.....	937,334	9,468	Tennessee.....	2	5
Georgia.....	6,163	1,298	Texas.....	356	
Idaho.....	58,807	44,006	Utah.....	89,297	
Maryland.....	12	6	Virginia.....	24	183
Michigan.....	3,032		Washington.....	15,101	6,651
Montana.....	184,096	33,419	Wyoming.....		1,323
Nevada.....	148,302	2,278			
N. Me. co.....	21,226	1,645	Total.....	2,525,387	390,858

It would appear from the above that less than one-third of the silver product of the United States is derived from mines producing silver ores proper, and that considerably more than two-thirds of the entire silver output of the United States is a product from the smelting of lead and copper ores, although this product is frequently more valuable than the other metals contained.

Approximate value of the product of Gold and Silver in the United States in the calendar year 1897, distributed by producing States and Territories, as estimated by the director of the mint.

STATES AND TERRITORIES	Gold, Value.	Silver, Coining Value.	Total Value.	STATES AND TERRITORIES.	Gold Value.	Silver, Coining Value.	Total Value.
Alabama....	\$7,400	\$129	\$7,529	N. Carolina....	\$34,600	\$388	\$34,988
Alaska.....	1,778,000	150,497	1,928,497	Oregon.....	1,353,700	89,212	1,442,912
Arizona.....	2,895,900	2,896,032	5,791,932	S. Carolina....	84,700	259	84,959
California....	4,618,300	613,366	5,231,666	S. Dakota.....	5,694,900	190,836	5,885,736
Colorado.....	19,104,200	27,974,235	47,078,535	Tennessee.....	100		100
Georgia.....	149,300	778	150,078	Texas.....	7,400	323,249	530,649
Idaho.....	1,701,700	6,336,905	8,038,605	Utah.....	1,728,100	8,100,978	9,827,078
Iowa.....	100		100	Vermont.....	100		100
Maryland.....	100		100	Virginia.....	3,900		3,900
Michigan.....	62,700	77,964	140,664	Washington....	419,900	138,214	558,114
Minnesota....	3,000		3,000	Wyoming.....	11,200	129	11,329
Montana.....	4,373,400	20,237,487	24,610,887				
Nevada.....	2,976,400	1,588,881	4,565,281	Total.....	\$57,363,000	\$69,637,172	\$127,000,172
New Mexico..	356,500	697,535	1,054,035				

Worlds production of Gold in 1897.

COUNTRIES.	Gold.		COUNTRIES.	GOLD.	
	Ozs. Fine.	Dollars.		Ozs. Fine.	Dollars.
United States.....	2,774,935	57,363,000	Ecuador.....	6,429	132,900
Australia.....	2,693,723	55,684,200	Chile.....	44,921	928,600
Mexico.....	456,481	9,436,300	Brasil.....	58,253	1,204,200
Russia.....	1,124,511	23,245,700	Venezuela.....	45,882	948,500
Germany.....	66,424	1,373,100	Guiana (British).....	111,001	2,264,800
Austria-Hungary.....	108,147	2,235,600	Guiana (Dutch).....	23,810	402,200
Sweden.....	4,083	84,400	Guiana (French).....	74,376	1,537,500
Norway.....			Peru.....	30,380	628,000
Italy.....	9,404	194,400	Uruguay.....	1,862	38,500
Spain.....			Cent. Am. States.....	22,760	470,500
Greece.....			Japan.....	34,506	713,900
Turkey.....	353	7,300	China.....	106,865	2,209,100
France.....			Africa.....	2,820,582	58,308,800
Great Britain.....	1,698	35,100	British India.....	350,598	7,247,500
Canada.....	291,561	6,027,100	Borneo.....	35,464	733,100
Argentine Republic.....	6,656	137,600		2,220	45,900
Colombia.....	145,125	3,000,000			
Bolivia.....	36,281	750,000	Total.....	11,489,291	237,504,800

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Gold of the Entire World.

It is an interesting study to compare the gold product of a given year with the supposed amount of gold already possessed and in use by the nations of the earth. Gold is now being obtained at a constantly increasing rate and the question naturally arises: What is the world's total stock of gold?

All sorts of estimates are made. One writer gravely asserts recently that the world's total stock had been doubled in the last ten years. This is not the case. No one knows how much gold there is in the world, but here are some facts which bear upon the question:

The total gold coinage of the world may be stated pretty accurately at about \$4,200,000,000.

The world's total product from 1492 down to the present day, following Soetbeer's estimate for the earlier years and mint estimates for the later, has been rather less than \$9,000,000,000, in round numbers, including 1896.

There is used in the arts annually—in gilding, electroplating and similar operations which withdraw gold from possibility of other uses—probably not less than \$10,000,000.

The use of solid gold in jewelry and plate, while not so directly a withdrawal of gold from circulation, since it can be remelted and coined, does expose it to greater waste from friction and increased risk of loss. This use now amounts to about \$50,000,000 a year.

Even coin gold loses weight constantly from trituration, not to speak of actual loss by fire, shipwreck and carelessness.

Anyone can amuse himself estimating the world's stock upon these data. It is probable that the loss and waste since 1492 have equalled in amount all the gold in existence, so that the world's present stock is certainly not more than the \$9,000,000,000 of modern production.

A less generous estimate might be that the amount of standard gold in plate, bars, rings, chains and other forms easily mutable with money equals the amount of gold coin, making the world's total stock some \$8,400,000,000. But this is something which no one knows.

Chief Treasure is American.

It was an American miner, as we have seen, who accidentally found the gold in the Klondike district. American grit and muscle have since developed that region until it almost bears the significance of a modern Ophir. Canada is reaping her profit from these facts, but it is consoling to reflect that the Klondike does not hold all or even the greatest wealth. On the upper creeks of Sixty-Mile and Forty-Mile within the boundaries of Alaska, are placer-mines by the hundred, which in any other country in the world would be considered as fortunes to the lucky owners. Down the river from Dawson City, 290 miles, is Circle City. A short portage from the Yukon from this point will bring one into the headwaters of Birch Creek. There are dozens of tributary streams in this creek from which gold has been extracted in large quantities. Hundreds of claims have paid as high as \$40 per day to every man employed; and claims which ran as low as an ounce, or \$16, a day were not looked at. Far down the Yukon, the Koyukuk, one of the most important tributaries of the lower river,

GOLD.	
Quarts. Fine Ozs.	Placer. Fine Ozs.
787	1,083
48,358	17,170
4,037	104
272,733	78
2	5
356	
89,297	
24	183
16,101	6,651
.....	1,323
2,525,387	390,858

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6,600	\$388	\$34,989
7,700	89,212	1,442,312
7,700	259	84,959
9,900	190,836	5,865,736
100		100
400	523,249	530,649
100	8,100,978	9,827,078
100		100
900		3,900
900	133,214	558,114
200	129	11,329
0,000	\$69,637,172	\$127,000,172

GOLD.	
Oz. Fine.	Dollars.
6,429	132,900
44,921	928,600
58,253	1,204,200
45,882	948,500
111,001	2,294,400
23,810	402,900
74,376	1,537,500
30,320	628,000
1,862	38,500
22,760	470,500
34,506	713,900
106,865	2,900,100
2,820,582	58,308,000
350,598	7,247,500
35,464	733,100
2,220	45,900
11,489,291	237,504,800

has its mouth. On this stream, for some years past, the Indians, working with crude rockers, made in imitation of those used by the white men, have been taking out ten to fifteen dollars a day to the man. In succeeding pages we give details of gold discoveries on this and other tributaries of the lower Yukon, and we again urge the fact that there are on the American side of the international boundary thousands of claims on which good wages can be made, and hundreds are known which in a very few years working would yield fortunes to their owners.

The Gold and the Boundary.

Recent occurrences have made the question of Alaska's boundary one of vital interest. The first attempt to define the international limits was made by Lieut. Schwatka, who in 1883 made a rough and necessarily crude survey of the Lewes and Pelly-Yukon rivers from their head to Fort Yukon, situated near the mouth of Porcupine river, a distance of about 500 miles. Lieut. Schwatka determined the position of this meridian line from his survey and located it at the mouth of what is now known as Mission or American Creek, on the headwaters of which valuable discoveries of gold are now being made on the Alaskan side.

A recent report of the United States Surveyors as to the boundary line in this connection said: "In substance these determinations throw the diggings at the mouth of Forty-Mile Creek within the territory of the United States. The whole valley of this rich creek is also within the United States. Most of the gold is to the west of the crossing of the one hundred and forty-first meridian at Forty-Mile Creek. If we produce the one hundred and forty-first meridian on a chart, the mouth of Miller's Creek, a tributary of Sixty-Mile Creek, and a valuable gold region, is five miles in a direct line, or seven miles, according to the winding of the stream, all within the territory of the United States. In substance, the only places in the Yukon region where gold in quantity has been found are all to the west of the boundary line between Canada and the United States."

"The gold," said General Duffield, Superintendent of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, in discussing the question, "has been ground out of the quartz by the pressure of the glaciers which lie and move along the courses of the streams, exerting a tremendous pressure. The force is present to a more appreciable extent in Alaska than elsewhere, and I believe that, as a consequence, more placer gold will be found in that region than in any other part of the world."

General Duffield thinks the American side hunters have made the mistake of prospecting the large streams instead of the small ones. "When gold is precipitated," he said, "it sinks. It does not float far down stream. It is therefore to be looked for along the small creeks and about the headwaters of the larger tributaries of the Yukon. There is no reason why as rich finds may not be made on the American side of the line as in the Klondike regions."

Again, it must be remembered that the value of a placer claim depends to a greater extent on the number of men who can profitably be put to work upon it. The gross tax levied by the Canadian Government upon the products of the Canadian placers will render it unprofitable to employ upon any except the richest of the mines.

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The Home Diggings.

In addition to the facts presented as to the location of the precious metal, in relatively equal distribution along the whole Yukon valley, there are other forcible reasons why gold-seekers from the United States should concentrate their efforts under the shadow of the stars and stripes. In the first place it should be remembered that on the American side of the line the general mining laws of the United States are in force. These permit the entry of twenty acres of land except in cases where the miners of a district, by adoption of local regulations of their own, limit the amount of the claim. The only expense or tax connected with it is the payment of a recording fee, the amount fixed by the miners themselves, to the recorder of a district, elected by themselves. Subject to further local regulations prescribed by the miners of a district, a man's right to a claim attaches the instant he files, and no law of the United States could ever be passed to divest him of that right, or to impose further restrictions upon him than were contained in the law at the time he filed. Should he desire to do so, he can, after expending five hundred dollars worth of work on a claim, have it surveyed and can receive a patent from the United States to it. No license fees are extorted from him; the claim is his, and no royalty is or ever can be imposed upon the gold which he takes out.

It would seem clear that in the present rush to the Yukon gold fields, men who really desire to acquire placer mining property for their own use and benefit, and not for the benefit of the Canadian government, will exercise a wise discretion if they confine their prospecting and locating to the American side of the international boundary, where there are placers rich enough to satisfy any moderate ambition, and where there may be new Klondikes discovered any day which will rival or surpass the discoveries made in the Northwest territories last year. On a later page we shall give details of the nature of the placer mines, the modes of working and the laws and customs that particularly affect the miner.

Take the American Side.

One of the latest arrivals at Seattle in 1898, who had spent considerable time in the Yukon gold regions and whose study of the miners and their work was very thorough, his statements therefore having considerable value as those of an observant and experienced gentleman. He says:

"The country is no good for the indolent and lazy; there is not an easy job there, but to the energetic man there are greater opportunities in the Yukon to-day than any place on earth. Since 1887 a few miners have been scattered along the Yukon, first working on the bars of Forty-Mile Creek and a few of its tributaries. Then Miller and Glazier Creek were discovered. Later the Birch Creek country near Circle City and America Creek near the new town of Eagle City came into prominence. Then came the famous Klondike strike and all other districts were abandoned and practically remained so until October, 1897, when a rich strike was reported from Chicken Creek a tributary of the South Fork of Forty-Mile, one hundred miles above the mouth of Forty-Mile Creek.

Miners drifted down from Dawson and soon all the abandoned camps on Chicken Creek were re-located. After the trail over the ice was in condition to travel there was a stampede from Dawson to the abandoned creeks on the American side including Forty-Mile and its tributaries, Mission Creek and all its tributaries, and Seventy-Mile and its tributaries. The town site of Star City was laid out at the mouth of Seventy Mile, which by September the 1st was a town of from 1,000 to 1,500 inhabitants.

OTHER ALASKAN TREASURES.

Riches of Western Alaska.

Perhaps the greatest service that can be rendered to Alaska, as well as to those who seek fortune in that splendid territory, is to point out those advantages and resources that lie apart from the chances of gold mining. Either with men or communities prosperity is not entirely dependent on the ownership of the precious metals. Alaska is rich not only in placer gold and gold-bearing quartz, the two chief forms in which the yellow metal is found, but it is also rich in copper, coal, silver, oil, to say nothing of the furs.

Here is what a recent arrival said:

"I got close from the river, back from the beach at Eualaska and found some good looking quartz. I made a couple of locations on Chigmic Bay in veins four or five feet wide, but I was looking more particularly for coal, and found a series of veins cropping in the cliffs on the coasts of Chigmic Bay. I traced it for a mile and a half and found it cropping again back in the hills. There is about fifteen feet of coal altogether, and in one place there is four feet solid which I have started opening up. Great masses of it are strewn all along the beach.

It has been tested as a good gas, cooking and steam coal. The gas in a clay pipe full of it burned for three minutes.

Alaska Coal.

The coal of Alaska so far examined, whether in the interior or on the coast, is of eocene or early tertiary age and belongs without exception to varieties of lignite, brown coal, or glance coal. The various coals of Alaska occur in beds interstratified with sandstone, shale, conglomerate and clay, these rocks usually containing numerous fossil plants, leaves, cones and amber, derived from the fossilization of resin from the ancient coniferous forests.

Many coal seams have been partly explored and a much larger number have been reported, but not examined by experts.

Coal Creek enters the Yukon from the east eight to ten miles below the mouth of Forty-Mile Creek, and hence is within Canadian territory. Two four feet seams of coal are reported in Sandstone, about twelve miles above the mouth of this stream, from which coal has been taken. It has a brilliant lustre and a conchoidal fracture, is rather light in weight, and carries some pyrite and amber in small specks.

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Coal of a similar quality occurs on a small creek entering the Yukon from the same side a few miles below Coal Creek.

Beds having a composition similar to that of the beds enclosing the coal seams and like them carrying impressions of fossil plants, are reported from various points in the country northeast of the Yukon River, notably up the Tatondire and Kandik Rivers, and on Big Black River, and it may be assumed that a belt of these coal-bearing rocks stretches through this region in a northwest-southeast direction generally parallel with and often very close to the Yukon.

Fruits of Alaskan Soil.

Nuggets of gold are not the only things produced on the Yukon. Large, fat, mealy potatoes; fresh, crisp radishes; carrots, cabbage, and turnips, to say nothing of wheat, oats and barley can be raised in quantities in Alaska, according to James Saller, a well-known Klondiker who has been resting for a spell at Seattle.

Saller brought with him from Lake Marsh a bunch of oats, barley and wheat fully matured and of excellent quality. "The grain grows," he said, "in spots where the ingoing miners stopped to feed their horses in Spring, on their way to Dawson. While the crop he harvested was of the volunteer order, the grains will compare favorably with those grown in the richest districts in Washington.

"It is simply a matter of time when the fertile soil of the Yukon will be proven to be admirably adapted to the raising of cereal crops, grasses and root products," said Mr. Saller at his hotel. "Look at that wheat—look at those specimens of oats. They grew from waste leavings on Marsh Lake. They prove that the soil is rich and well adapted to husbandry. At Sixty-Mile Creek we sow as fine, large potatoes as you can see anywhere in the States. Radishes, cabbages and other vegetables grow equally well along the Yukon, and I think the day is not distant when the miners in Alaska will live on the fruits of its own soil.

ROUTES OF TRAVEL.

How to Get to Alaska.

There is but one proper way to go into Alaska and that is the easiest, safest and quickest, which is by the route of the ocean and river steamers of the North American Transportation and Trading Co. No matter if you wish to go to points remote from the Yukon River, the trails leading from the Yukon River and its tributaries to such points are much easier than the dangerous trails of ice and snow, crossing glaciers, and leading from south coast points over the summits of the highest ranges of mountains in Alaska.

In addition to easy trails, you also have the advantage of prospecting two to five valleys according to your destination. It is believed that the richest copper deposits to be discovered will be found in the Tanana district, all of which lies south of the Yukon River.

By waiting for these boats, you will not be exhausted from attempting to reach these points by going in over the ice, but will arrive in



Holy Cross Mission, Alaska.



N. A. T. & T. Co.'s Steamer "P. B. Wear" Working Up, at Stebbin's Point.



good physical condition, and be prepared to enter the prospecting field immediately. Those who have not made the trip overland, should understand that the rigors of the climate, labor and dangers are almost beyond conception.

The distance from Seattle to Healy, St. Michael's Island, is about 2,700 miles, and from the latter point to Weare, 870 miles, Rampart, 935 miles, Circle, 1335 miles, Eagle City, 1530 miles, Dawson, 1735 miles.

Dangers of the Other Way.

Though a railway now lessens the initial toils of the journey, yet going by way of the passes to the Yukon country, during the winter season in particular, is no boy's play. The midwinter journey of 800 miles on snow shoes over the snowy mountains and down the frozen wastes of the Yukon Valley, when for hundreds of miles you will not see a sign of human habitation, or the smoke from a single camp-fire save your own. The dread silence of those vast solitudes firmly locked in the cold embrace of winter, will echo no voices save yours; the barking of your dogs will awake no answer except fierce howling of wolves. And so one day will succeed another, each new horizon compassing a world of snow and ice so like the other that none but an experienced eye can tell of advance.

The Chief Mountain Passes.



The trail which has been longest in use is that over Chilkoot Pass from Dyea to Lake Lindeman, distance 28 miles, and in places very steep, reaching an elevation of nearly 3,500 feet, requiring packing by men and Indians over the divide, pack trains of horses being used on other portions of the trail, or, if in early spring, dogs and sleds are found most convenient. The White Pass, from Skagway to the lakes, a distance of 42 miles, is somewhat lower, and pack trains make the entire distance, but the experiences of thousands during the rush of 1897 have made its difficulties well known. The Taku trail from Juneau has its adherents, but does not appear to be attempted by the miners in any great numbers.

Hints on Transportation.

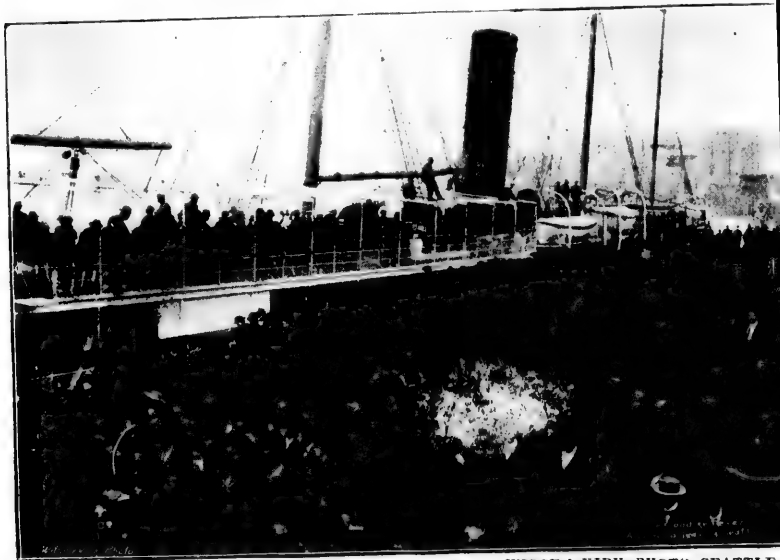
We shall assume you have been wise enough to decide for the "all water" route. Then, in securing transportation to Healy, St. Michael's Island and points on the Yukon River, bear in mind that the North American Transportation and Trading Company has been doing business on the Yukon River for more than seven years, and is the only established line operating its own boats between Tacoma, Seattle and Dawson. Having had ample experience, it advises that on account of the heavy ice flow June 20th is as early as any boat can navigate in Norton Sound, or to be expected to reach St. Michael's Island, at which point all connections have to be made with river steamers, and in order to avoid delay on the trip, it has been decided not to start the first ocean steamer from Seattle until about June 10th. The Company will give regular service during the season of navigation, and

other sailing dates from Seattle will be on or about July 20th, August 20th, and September 20th.

The Company does not solicit pieces of freight weighing over ten tons and will not tow any barges or carry live stock.

One hundred and fifty pounds of baggage are allowed free to each passenger. Arrangements must be made with the Company for excess baggage.

Tickets include meals and berth, but second-class passengers must furnish their own bedding.



WILSE & KIRK, PHOTO, SEATTLE.

The North American Transportation and Trading Company's steamer leaving Seattle, Wash., for Healy, St. Michaels.

The All Water Route.

Starting from Seattle in one of the Company's splendid steamships, as named and described in a preceding section, the traveller to Alaska has neither toil nor hardships to encounter and no dangers beyond the ordinary perils of navigation. More than that, on such a vessel as the "Roanoke" he is surrounded by every comfort and convenience as if in a first class hotel on shore, and his midsummer voyage over the waters of the Northern Pacific is an experience that may be looked forward to with unalloyed pleasure. And thus it is for the entire passage into the heart of Alaska, for the "N. A. T. & T. Co." has so developed its ocean and river service and so improved its transportation facilities that even delicate women who desire to take a brief glimpse of the wonderful life of a new and uncommonly rich mining camp, can make a summer excursion to the Klondike and return, at the time enjoying all the comforts which can be had on first class steamers.

Meanwhile the Company advises that miners and prospectors take the first boat in June, so as to arrive at the mines in time for a good season's work. On arriving there you will find large and complete stores.

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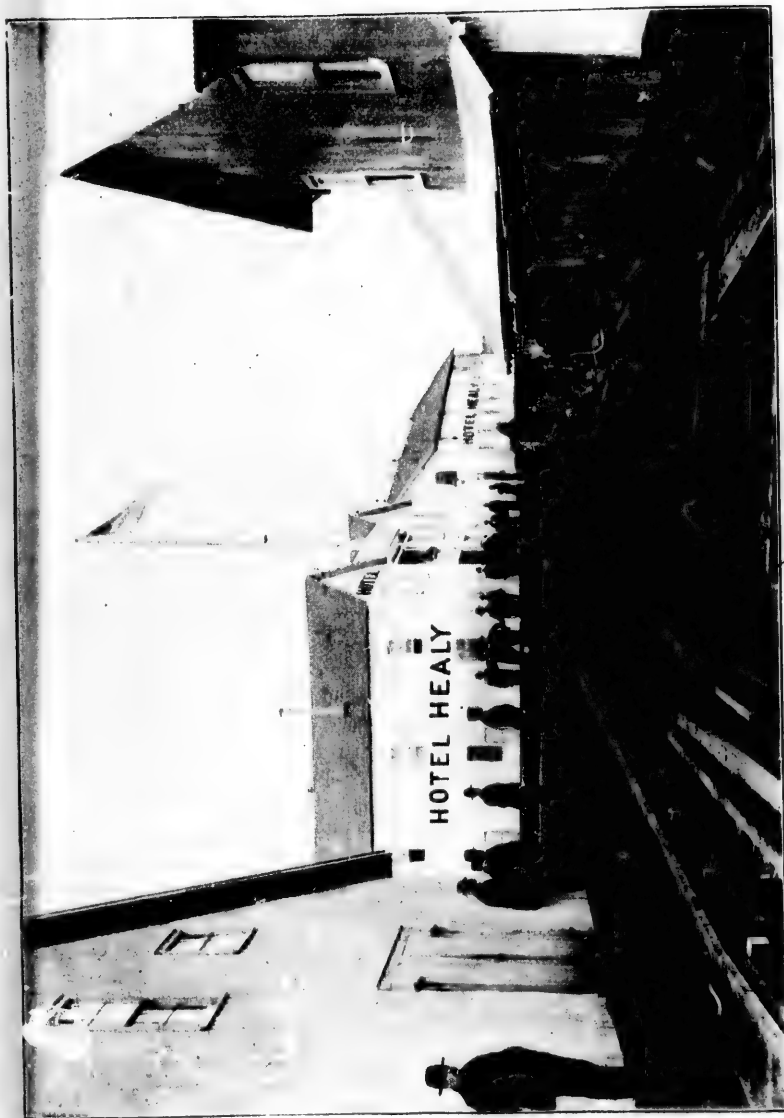
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Street Scene, Healy, St. Michael's Island.
Vast Improvements have been made at this point since above photograph was taken.

supplied with everything required, both necessities and luxuries, at reasonable prices. With their increased transportation facilities they can supply the country with everything needed and there is no necessity of bringing in your own supplies.

At Dutch Harbor.

The island of Unalaska is one of the Aleutian chain forming a kind of rampart between the Pacific and Behring Sea, and here in the principal harbor is an islet with a crescent bay which is called Dutch Harbor, and here it is the steamer actually casts anchor. Dutch Harbor is a coaling station and supply point for naval vessels and for the Behring Sea fleet of whalers and sealers. It is also the headquarters of the company that owns the sealing privilege of the Pribilof Islands, and accordingly it possesses so many facilities that here the North American Transportation and Trading Co. maintains a great warehouse and other establishments. Back of the little island that forms Dutch Harbor is another curved beach, where may be seen the line of white-painted houses that constitute the port of Unalaska.

Healy, St. Michael's Island.

After a brief pause at Dutch Harbor, where the coal bunkers are replenished and fresh provisions taken on board, the steamers resume their way north through Behring Sea, past the seal islands of St. George and St. Paul, and up through Norton Sound to Healy, on St. Michael's Island. This is the great depot for the Yukon country and the point of transfer to the river steamers. Here, again, the North American Transportation and Trading Co. has vast stores and warehouses, wharves and shipyard, and at the present time this is the sojourning place of all who are bound either in or out of the Yukon Valley. Healy is about sixty miles north of the actual mouth of the Yukon, and is the spot where the stars and stripes were first floated over Alaskan territory, at the time of its purchase from the Russian government. As a depot and port of trans-shipment it seems destined to flourish as the Suez of the northern seas.

We are now on the great river that forms the true and natural highway through the territory of Alaska. The Yukon has its source in the Rocky Mountains of British Columbia and the Coast Range mountains of southeastern Alaska, about 125 miles from Juneau. But it is only known as the Yukon at the point where the Pelly River, the branch that heads in British Columbia, meets with the Lewis River, which heads in southeastern Alaska. This point of confluence is at Fort Selkirk, in the Northwest Territory, about 125 miles southeast of the Klondike.

The Yukon proper is 2,044 miles in length. From Fort Selkirk it flows northwest 400 miles, just touching the Arctic circle; thence southward for a distance of 1,000 miles to where it empties into Behring Sea. It drains more than 600,000 square miles of territory. A thousand islands send the channel in as many different directions. Only the most skillful pilotage, often with native help enables us to head our river steamer constantly in a safe course.

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THE YUKON VALLEY.

Up the Great River.

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We are now in the summer season and the shores are really charming, considering the wilderness we had been led to expect. The banks are fringed with flowers, carpeted with the all prevailing moss or tundra. Birds countless in numbers and of infinite variety in plumage sing out a welcome from every tree top. Pitch your tent where you will in midsummer, a bed of roses, a clump of poppies and a bunch of blue bells will adorn your camping. By September everything is changed. The bed of roses has disappeared before the icy breath of the Winter King, which sends the thermometer down below freezing point. The birds fly to the southland, the white man to his cabin, the Indian to his hut, and the bear to his sleeping chamber in the mountains. Every stream becomes a sheet of ice, mountain and valley alike are covered with snow.

In some descriptions of this river journey by recent visitors to Alaska, mostly practical, these charms will be found associated with these material interests that are the chief object of this pamphlet.

On the Lower Yukon.

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The river carries one-third more water into Behring Sea than the Mississippi does into the Gulf of Mexico. The delta is from twenty-five to thirty miles wide, and on account of the dirt and sand swept into it every minute it is impossible for any ocean vessel to come nearer the mouth than thirty-five or forty miles. Going up the river for the first 225 miles there is no wood. After this is passed, and as far up as the mouth of the Tanana an abundance of spruce grows. The spruce trees are from one to two feet thick and from forty to fifty feet high. Cottonwood also grows there in abundance, but is valueless, still the spruce furnishes a good fuel and is used by the explorers.

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The climate of this portion of the Yukon is superb. Up to the middle of September the weather is beautiful. After that time the tops of the mountains are covered with snow. Still, at no time is the cold what would be called severe in any dry atmosphere. In some years the Bay at St. Michaels is frozen over by October 18th, but cold there does not mean what it does in the States, and for a sturdy man the suffering is much less than in our home states.

A Well-Timbered Country.

From Fort Selkirk
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In a letter from Weare, on the Yukon, dated September 9, 1898, to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Mr. Erastus Brainard writes as follows: It is my belief that the wonders of the Yukon are yet untold. Seeing gold with your own eyes washed from every pan along the river, seeing out-croppings of good lignite coal, quantities of timber and many spots of available agricultural land, lead one to the conclusion that long after the Klondike boom is over emigration from the States to the Yukon will be still steady and that what Seattle has



Scene at Nulato, Alaska.



N. A. T. & Trading Co. Stores, Circle City, Alaska.

received is not a drop in the bucket to what the next ten or twenty years will yield as tribute to her enterprise.

The extent of timber alone is surprising. I had an idea that timber was sparse and straggling. On Puget Sound it would be so considered. In Pennsylvania the Yukon banks, from its mouth to Rain-part City at least, would be considered one long forest of wood. Much of this growth runs as thick as two feet and the greater part appears to be about eighteen inches thick."

Natives along the Stream.

On the lower Yukon as far up as Nulato they are the dirtiest Indians any white man ever saw, bathing is unknown to them. The smell of seal oil constantly about them is extremely offensive, but in disposition these Indians are very kindly to new-comers. They are lacking in intelligence, but strangely enough they have a moral code and live up to it very well. Their language is a puzzle. Every 200 miles going up the Yukon you find a new Indian tribe that does not speak the same language as the one you just left. The jargon you hear at Nulato would not be understood at Tanana. The different tribes do not understand each other. The mastering by yourself of the language of one tribe does not enable you to talk with another tribe. The confusion of tongues is something wonderful, and one of the things which makes white progress with the native so difficult. To really get along well in Alaska with the natives one would have to master a dozen different languages, the work of more than a life-time. The different tribes do not co-mingle with each other to any extent, although hunting and fishing over much the same territory.

Floating in High Latitudes

As you proceed up the river you see innumerable Indian villages and small settlements inhabited by traders, missionaries and Indians, all of interest to the traveler. The first two or three hundred miles is through low, flat country, after which the mountainous country is reached, and the constant change of magnificent scenery is beyond description.

At old Fort Yukon, which is inside of the Arctic Circle, you see during June and July the sun for nearly twenty-four hours without a break.

After leaving here the next point of interest is Circle City the metropolis of the Yukon country. Here you find a large frontier town, the houses all built of logs, and while they have no pretensions to beauty, they are warm and comfortable. Circle City has a population of nearly 2,000 people, and some of the best placer mines yet discovered in the Yukon valley.

Arctic Midnight.

Among the interesting features of this river journey a traveler was particularly impressed by the phenomena of arctic night, which he has eloquently described in a letter from Circle City. He writes:

"The midnight sun is here, and it is exceedingly generous of him, for Circle City is now commonly considered to be about thirty miles



aska.

south of the Arctic Circle. Every party of surveyors has its own latitude for this place, one party even affirming it to be north of the circle. Some time this question will be definitely settled, and until then, suffice it to say that our day-king has not 'set' now for at least eight days, or, if we are so far south of the circle, this 'reflection of the sun' as some scientists claim it to be, could not be more than the original.

"At Ft. Yukon, about thirty miles north of the circle, the sun does not fail to rise during the shortest winter days, the upper rim just showing itself, as it skirts along the horizon for a distance just about as it looks now here. As at Ft. Yukon it should not show itself at all for a few days, in the same way that it should disappear entirely here for a few minutes, both are probably due to reflection.

"I am not sorry that such is the case, for it is a beautiful sight. It was first noticed on the night of June 17th, that it did not set though had one watched it for a few nights previous to this date the same effect might have been observed. It was also watched by different parties on the nights of June 19, 21 and 22. At 10 p. m. the sun is apparently nearly one hour high in the northwest; it looks as though it would sink and set right there; but no, he slides along towards the north, slowly drawing nearer to the earth, until finally his lower rim appears to touch it.

Novel and Brilliant Spectacle.

"During this time the sky has been showing all the shades of red, pink and orange, until now it shows a brilliant red all along the northern horizon, the sun himself looking like a ball of fire. Down he goes, until only half the ball shows, then disappears altogether behind the tall trees. The watcher hurriedly runs up a ladder to the roof of a house ten or fifteen feet above the ground and from there watches the upper fourth of the fiery orb as it swings steadily along the northern horizon for some distance, distinctly visible all the time, until it slowly rises amid more brilliant effects of coloring than when it had first touched the horizon one and one-half hours before.

"All this time the moon, large, pale and frightened looking, was rising in the east, but she could not hold her own against this rising splendor. But she fully retaliates, for it is in the long winter nights when she gets in her work.

"There has been no real darkness since May 1st. On that date the ladies went out on a 'May-day snowshoe party'—this may sound rather odd to some readers—and as the snow was in fine condition, they reported having a good time.

"Now, no one would think of snow, for it often registers over 90 degrees in the sun; hills and trees are clothed in bright green; songless birds are flitting about; wild flowers, including roses, are growing in profusion, and the greatest drawback to the development of this country—mosquitoes—are in full force. Before the snow is fairly off the ground they come; big, lazy fellows, making much noise, but getting in little real work.

"Before long, another crop comes, almost too little to see, too quiet to hear, too active to catch, but how they do sting, keeping one's hands, face and neck covered with itching, burning lumps and sores. One hardly dares to venture out of doors without first putting on

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thick buckskin gloves and a sack made of netting over hat, head and neck; but they will work their way through netting, even fine wire screening, cheesecloth being the only thing that will entirely exclude them.

Up the Koyukuk.

Men who voluntarily avoid the principal Yukon settlement and strike clear into Alaska really "mean business." At present the most extensive prospecting on the American side is going on along the Koyukuk river. This is the Yukon's largest affluent, having a length of 800 miles or more. Small steamboats can navigate the stream for most of its course. Years ago float gold was washed from bars nearer the source than the mouth, but no coarse gold was found and the river was deserted for the coarse gold diggings on the Forty-Mile and about Circle City. The old time prospecting amounted to next to nothing, for no bedrock was examined. Since last June about 750 men have gone up the Koyukuk, designing thorough work, and as they are generally equipped for two years and have more than twenty small steamers of their own, something should come of their presence in this really unknown region. There are current several well seeming reports of rich finds.

Rampart City in Favor.

The tide of gold seekers going up the Yukon has heretofore passed by Rampart with comparative neglect. Nearly everybody coming into this country has been fascinated by the wonderful sensations of the Klondike. Last summer, however, when the exodus took place from Dawson to the American side, the miners found to their surprise that Rampart had been growing in importance and was a center of wealth and promise to those who had cast their fortunes there.

The new immigration of course gives to the place a most enlivening impulse. The beach has been piled with merchandise awaiting the construction of buildings for its owners. Nearly all classes of business are now represented. There are four general outfitting stores, a shoe-store, three bakeries, two restaurants, two saw mills and naturally the usual sprinkling of saloons. There is also a spacious warehouse of the North American Transportation and Trading Co. On the whole the camp is more than usually well provided and the influx of new hustlers, should their success correspond with their eagerness, will have the effect of making it one of the most thriving in the Yukon valley. Many of them are old California and Montana miners and they are here for legitimate mining and intend to do conscientious prospecting.

Before last season the chief diggings on which there was pay dirt were located on Little Minook Creek, about seven miles from Rampart. Many of the claims on this creek have yielded their owners handsome profits. Late in the preceding winter the Idaho Bar was discovered, being on the north branch of little Minook and extending across Eldorado Creek to Hunter. It is supposed to be the bed of some ancient river or glacier, but the extent and direction of the pay streak have not been determined. Discovery claim showed pans that ran above \$2.00. The bar is what is known as winter diggings; it has been

examined and regarded as most promising by experienced miners who have looked over the locality. Another discovery in this locality has been made on Quail Creek, a tributary of the Mike Hess, but this is in the class of summer diggings.

From Rampart there is an easy trail to the Koyukuk, and which will make the young city the chief outfitting point for the entire Koyukuk region. This trail goes up Hoyne Creek, which empties into the Yukon opposite Rampart. The Tomana divide is not more than thirty miles to the south. The comparative proximity of two such streams and the network of gold bearing creeks by which Rampart is surrounded should make it one of the leading cities on the Yukon.

Birch Creek Prospects.

The Birch Creek district is known to have value and there is some proved ground obtainable here on easy terms, besides a good deal of room for the prospector. Probably 500 would cover the population. Birch Creek is more than 300 miles long and has numerous tributaries. Since 1891 mining has been carried on along branches of the stream lying forty to sixty miles from Circle City, which camp on the Yukon is reached by an overland journey of eight miles from the creek. The yield of gold has been about \$2,000,000. When the Bonanza find was made there were from 1,500 to 2,000 persons in the Birch Creek district and they were getting on passably, but they let go everything then and rushed pell mell for Dawson until the region was nearly deserted. No very rich spots have been found on Birch Creek and no large fortunes have been made there, but there is in the well-prospected bottoms a large quantity of low grade gravel which is worth working and there are some creeks not acquainted with the gold pan at all. Whether new strikes be made or not there will be a large output of gold from Birch Creek placers within the next decade.

Birth of Eagle City.

The British boundary crosses the Forty-Mile River about twenty-three miles above its mouth. It soon became apparent to the American miners here that owing to the extortionate mining laws passed by the Dominion government something should be done to control and confine operations on American territory entirely within American lines, both coming into and going out of the country; in other words to make an all-American route to and from the States. To this end it was found that an American town on American territory was absolutely necessary as a base of operations. Hence a party of energetic, intelligent miners went to the mouth of Mission Creek on the American side of the Yukon and platted a town site which has been named Eagle City.

This town site, which on the government maps of the United States coast and geodetic survey is known as Belle Isle, was laid out the latter end of January, 1898, and the growth of the new American city is said to be wonderful. Lots that sold for \$50 and \$100 now command \$500 and \$1,000, with every prospect that prices will continue upward all summer and next winter. Buildings are in process of construction on all the principal streets and business is said to be

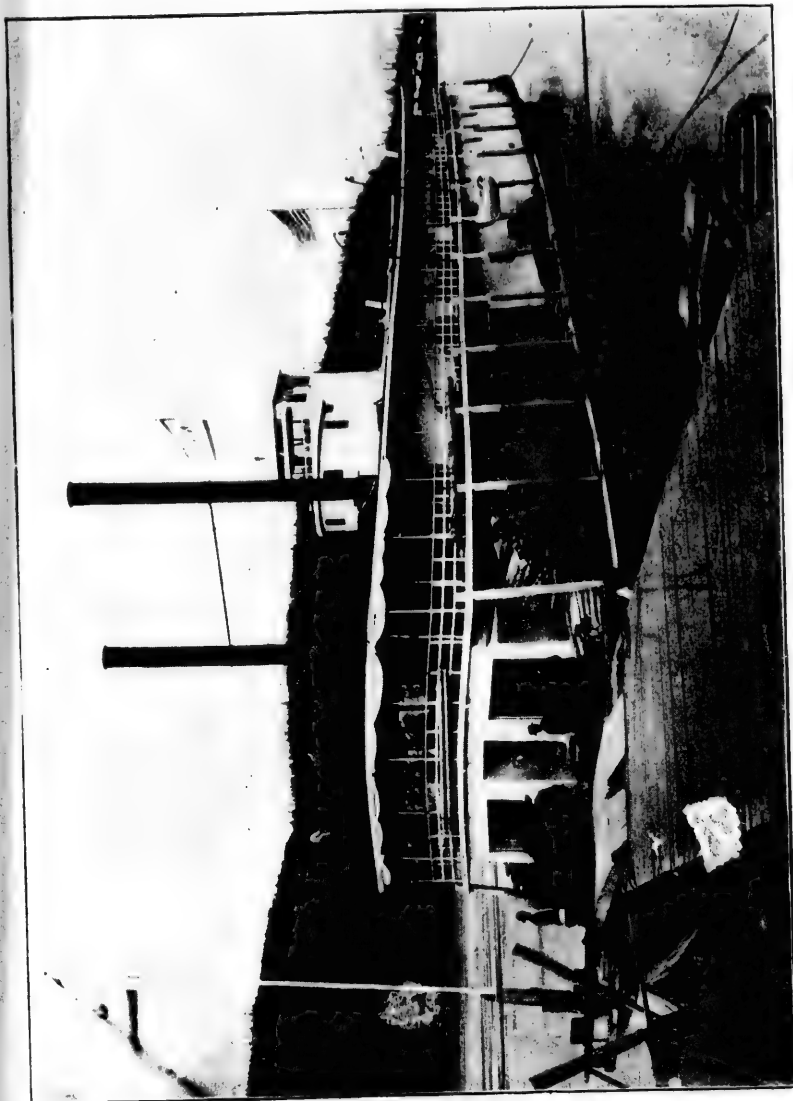
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N. A. T. & T. Co.'s River Steamer, "John J. Healy," lying at wharf, Dawson.

lively and flourishing. New comers are at present living in tents which dot the whole town site, and from the number of boats daily leaving here with "Cheechak-os" for the American side it will not be long before Eagle City rivals Dawson. As predicted many it may outgrow it.

The platting of Eagle City took place the end of January, 1898, after the stampede had proven the general interest in the matter, and the anxiety of Americans to get back to American territory in order to work under the liberal mining laws of Uncle Sam.

The stampeders had staked everything in sight, individually and by proxy or power of attorney as permitted by the general mining laws of the United States, also had re-staked all old claims that had been practically abandoned.

The very latest reports received from the Forty-Mile district are to the effect that rich mines are being worked on Chicken, Napoleon, Miller, Dominion and Alder Creeks, including Nugget Gulch, while promising prospects are being made almost daily.

The wisdom of choosing Eagle City as the centre of operations for an all American route to and from the United States is admitted by all. In coming by way of St. Michael the miner, bound for the American side, by going to Eagle City is never once brought in contact with the Canadian authority, hence his outfit is not subject to duty or inspection. An overland, winter, all American route has also been mapped out from Eagle City via the Copper River, over the divide from the Yukon south to the sea coast in the Gulf of Alaska.

This overland route is said to be feasible and practical besides being shorter than the Yukon and lake routes, and will remove many of the dangers and difficulties that beset the pilgrim on his trip from either Dyea or Skagway over the trail and down rivers and lakes over Canadian territory.

The new route over which a trail has already been blazed from Eagle City goes along American Creek, around Mt. McQuestin, down Dome Creek to O'Brien Creek and down the latter to the Forty-Mile and its south fork. This will open up the head of the Tanana country as well as the upper Copper River, and must perforce control all of that vast and probably rich mining region entirely through American territory clear down to the coast.

Eagle City is the outfitting point for American Creek and its tributaries, Bluff, Marion, Canyon, Gravel, Caribou and Dome Creeks. Already over 300 cabins have been built and several business houses erected. The U. S. Gov't has established a military post of seventy men, also a customs house. The population is about 700.

Forty Mile Picking Up.

As reported from many sources, the village and diggings of Forty Mile are again picking up, and as they are situated not more than about fifty miles below Dawson, there is really no telling how many discontented Klondikers will go there before next summer. Forty Mile Creek rises in Alaska, but in getting to the Yukon flows the last twenty-three miles of its 200 mile course through Canadian territory. The village being at the mouth of the stream is, of course, in Canada. Coarse gold was found on the Forty Mile in 1886, and since 1887

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N. A. T. & T. Co.'s Messengers.

The above represents five of this Company's Messengers as dressed for the overland trip on ice and snow just before leaving Skagway for Dawson, January, 1899.

placer mining has been prosecuted with profit, but no extraordinary profit—by a band of workers, who have taken the best pay from the lower riches of the main creek and from some of the benches, but who have not touched the headwaters, nor carefully prospected all of the tributaries.

The Klondike excitement emptied the Forty Mile district of its population, notwithstanding the gold output had reached \$1,000,000; but since last December miners have been gathering again along the stream and in the settlement, and the district has resumed much of its old activity.

Nothing is doing in the Canadian diggings, but on the American end of the creek some prospecting is going on, and there is good authority for the report that gold has been struck in paying quantities well within the boundary.

Round About Forty Mile

This Forty Mile River with its many tributaries and their branches is an empire in extent. Almost as great as Seventy Mile and its tributaries and Mission River in a less degree.

The north fork of Forty Mile was unexplored and unprospected until last July, when gold was found in paying quantities on several creeks. The tributaries of this north fork alone are twenty-five or thirty creeks, with their numerous branches, only a few of which have been at all prospected. This whole country is composed only of mountains and rivers.

Perhaps the richest discovery made outside of "Eldorado" is on Chicken Creek, where, on Discovery claim, there has been found at a depth of seven feet gravel that will go from \$2.00 to \$15.00 to the pan, taken from any place. Claim owners on that claim offer to wager any amount that they can show a greater depth of rich ground than has ever been found elsewhere in the Yukon country.

Last winter fully 500 men were at work on this claim. In a few years, when hydraulic mining is supplied to the more shallow creeks in this district and the rich bars on Forty Mile River, the amount of gold produced will be fabulous, and it is only a matter of time, money and transportation.

KLONDIKE AND ITS CAPITAL.

On the Upper Yukon.

"Flowing into the Yukon from the east are four streams of which one hears the miners speak constantly: Klondike River, Baker Creek, Indian Creek and Stewart River. As is known, the Klondike enters the Yukon at Dawson. Thirty-five miles farther up the Yukon, Indian Creek empties, and between Indian Creek and the Klondike the Yukon receives Baker Creek.

"The Stewart joins this great concourse of waters about sixty-five miles above the mouth of Indian Creek. The Klondike's headwaters are unknown; so are the Stewart's. Nothing certain can be said of the length of either. Prospectors have gone 150 miles up the Klon-

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Typical Street Scene, Dawson City, 1898.

dike, and it is more than a brook there. The Indians give the impression that the Stewart is 300 miles long. Baker Creek is less than sixty miles long. Indian Creek has a course of 100 miles, approximately. These four streams flow somewhat parallel with one another, and through a rugged, mountainous region, heavily timbered with spruce, birch and poplar, and very difficult to traverse.

"The Stewart has hundreds of miles of tributaries, none of which, however, have been brought prominently into notice. Indian Creek has several small branches, among them Dominion Creek. A tributary of Dominion Creek is Sulphur Creek. Baker Creek has some small branches, none much mentioned. The Klondike has three famous branches—Bonanza Creek, Bear Creek and Hunker Creek; and several not famous, notably Too Much Gold Creek and Quigley Creek.

"Bonanza Creek enters the Klondike two miles above the mouth of that river, and its course is northwesterly. It is twenty-three miles long, carrying 500 inches at low water, and has for tributaries Adams Creek, Eldorado Creek and Victoria Creek on the right hand side toward the headwaters, and Gouvan Creek, Home Stake Creek, Skookum Gulch and Galvin Gulch on the other side, and a fork known as McCormack's branch. Adams Creek, seven miles long, has French Gulch for a tributary—a tiny creek, and Chief Gulch for a fork, three miles long. Victoria Creek, four to five miles long, joins Bonanza about ten miles from the mouth. McCormack's branch is about five miles long and forks from the main stream about sixteen miles from the mouth. Gouvan, Homestake, Skookum and Galvin flow into Bonanza at points between the forks and Eldorado."

Dawson and its Fortunes.

The newly established city of Dawson is located near the mouth of the Klondike river, where it empties into the Yukon. It is laid out in rectangular shape into town lots. The streets are sixty-five feet wide. It is situated on a stretch of low ground on the northwest bank of the Yukon, a short distance below the mouth of the Klondike. Only two years ago a vast majority of its inhabitants lived in tents, but a great many houses were built each season since then. Some of these are quite substantial buildings. The best and most commodious, aside from the extensive and imposing warehouses of the North American Transportation and Trading Company, are occupied by saloons and gambling houses; and these places, as is the case in all mining centers, are excessively patronized. Town lots in Dawson City are being sold at a high figure, some of them bringing as much as \$20,000 each.

Dawson City is, of course, a lively mining town. The population which has gone in there is of an exceedingly mixed kind, including a large variety of nationalities and men of nearly every phase of human experience. Notwithstanding this, up to the present no serious breaches of the peace have taken place. There is nothing in the way of what we call style in Dawson City. Bar-keepers do not wear boiled shirts, nor are those who preside at the piano or manipulate other musical instruments in the coarse dance-houses dressed in the garb of dudes. The city, nevertheless, is rapidly taking on all the decencies and establishing the conveniences of a city in the States.

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Dawson Characteristics

Dawson City is one of the most peculiar towns to be found in the world just at present. With its assorted population, general characteristics and ever-changing phases, it presents a picture that is seldom found in the world's history. With such a miscellaneous population the wonder is that there is so little trouble. There is more money changing hands in Dawson during a month than there is through a whole year in many cities of the United States of twice the size. By money is meant gold dust and money both. It is safe to say, though, that there is more gold dust in Dawson than its equivalent in coin.

Dawson at the latest reports contained as near as could be judged 20,000 inhabitants of all creeds and nationalities and composes an exceedingly picturesque scene. One thing easily distinguishes the older inhabitants from the new-comers, and that is his longing for dainties of any kind.

A Great Mining Center.

It is at the bustling Klondike capital that the peculiar aspects of a mining community are centered in dominant life. It is at Dawson we most clearly realize the vast mineral wealth of the country. Klondike placer mines are only gathering the dust washed off nature's great gold reserve in the Alaskan mountains. This dust is found in the gravel of the little streams. It comes from a formation called the conglomerate, which is incomparably richer in nugget and particles of gold than the gravel.

When the miners find it no longer profitable to wash out the gravel they can attack the conglomerate, where they will be able to accomplish something by hard labor. Finally, there is the original source of the gold, the veins in the hills. These must be of enormous value. They must lie untouched until the proper machinery for obtaining the gold is erected. A clear, scientific and authoritative explanation of the geological conditions of the Klondike and neighboring gold-bearing rocks is given here. It was furnished by Prof. S. E. Emmons, of the United States Geological Survey. Professor Emmons says:

"The real mass of golden wealth in Alaska remains as yet untouched. It lies in virgin rocks, from which the particles found in the river gravels now being washed by the Klondike miners have been torn by the erosion of streams. These particles being heavy have been deposited by the streams which carried the lighter matter onward to the ocean, thus forming by gradual accumulation a sort of auriferous concentrate. Many of the bits, especially in certain localities, are big enough to be called nuggets. In spots the gravels are so rich that, as we have all heard, many ounces of the yellow metal are obtained from the washing of a single panful. This is what is making the people so wild—the prospect of picking money out of the dirt by the handful literally.

Where the Gold is Cradled.

"But all this is merely the skimming of grease from the pot; the soup remains, and precious soup it is. The bulk of the wealth is in the rocks of the hills, waiting only for proper machinery to take it

out. For you must remember that the gold was originally stored in veins of the rocks, which are of an exceedingly ancient formation. Nobody can say how many millions of years since the metal was put there, but it must have been an enormously long time back.

"The streams wore away the rocks, carrying gold with them, and this process continued for ages, making immense deposits of rich, gold-bearing gravels. Eventually these deposits were themselves transformed into rocks—a sort of conglomerate in which pebbles small and big are mixed with what was once sand. To-day the strata composed of this conglomerate are of immense extent and unknown thickness. The formation closely resembles that of the auriferous 'banket' or pudding stone of the South African gold fields; but the South African pudding stone was in far remote antiquity a sea beach, whereas the Alaskan formation is a deposit made by streams, as I have said.

"In the latter epoch the stream continued to gnaw away at the hills, bringing down more gold and leaving it behind in the gravel at their bottoms. It is these comparatively modern rivers which are responsible for the pay dirt of the Klondike district and of all that region. Naturally, because it was easily got at and worked, the miners have struck this surface alluvium first. The streams at various times have followed different courses, and it is in the gravels of the dry and disused channels that the gold miners dig with such fabulous profit.

"You will observe from what I have said that the gold of that region exists under three widely different conditions—in the gravels, in the conglomerate or pudding stone, and in the ancient rocks of the hills. When the modern stream deposits, now being worked, are used up, the miner can tackle the conglomerate, which represents the gravels of ages ago. Finally, when they are provided with the requisite machinery, they will be in a position to attack the masses of yellow wealth that are stored in the veins of the mountains. At present we can hardly consider that the first bite has been taken of the golden feast which Alaska offers to the hungry man."

Women in the Klondyke.

It is probable that out of a total population of about 30,000 who were in the Klondike in 1898 at the close of navigation, about 500 were women or a proportion of about sixty men to every woman. The majority of these women went into the Klondike last year. A good many of these ladies were seen on the trail between Skagway and Dawson. They were mostly strong, healthy women, as they had good need to be if they ever wanted to reach their destination. Some of them worked as hard as the men. It was quite a common thing to see a woman with a fifty-pound pack on her back, or pulling a loaded sled or handling a heavy oar. They appeared to recognize the fact that they were not out for a picnic, and all seemed to be less disheartened than the men themselves. Many of these ladies were accompanied by their husbands, many were not; though of course all but very few traveled under some kind of male protection.

The home life of a Dawson lady is not very eventful. It is composed mostly of two elements, work and rest, with the former largely

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predominating. Social functions having scarcely been introduced there yet, and the visiting list of most Dawson ladies is short and sweet. The theater and public places are quite impossible to her and whatever excitement she gets must be from the companionship of her husband or a very small circle of friends, and from the constant contemplation of the fact that the day will, or at any rate, may arrive, when they will be able to leave Dawson forever with a snug little fortune, to make up in the future for what they have suffered in the past.

Child Life at Dawson.

With the married ladies at Dawson there are of course some children. They are not numerous, probably one hundred all told. How some of these little tots—particularly those who went in by the Skagway and over trails—ever got to Dawson is really astonishing. The Chilcoot Summit is real'y a pretty hard nut to crack even for a strong man and yet many of these children climbed it without any assistance. The hardships of the trail did not appear to hurt them, and all seemed to treat the whole thing as a huge picnic where there was all kinds of fun. At Dawson the boys and girls are in the nature of things inclined to run rather wild. There is no school for them yet and their only playground is the street, which in a mining camp is not exactly a kindergarten. Everybody in Dawson is there to make money, and though the boys appear to enjoy excellent health they also seem to consider that that is not exactly what they went to Dawson for. They are apparently there for business just as much as the men. They cannot register mining claims as no doubt many of them would, but they have adopted a novel sort of mining in the city itself. They wash the sweepings of the large saloons and stores and find it often very good "pay."

A boy who is in this business will arrange with one or two of the business places where a large amount of gold dust is handled to put aside the dirt that is swept from the floor every morning. This dirt may be regarded as his claim and every day that is gold pan in his hands; he will go there and carefully wash the whole of this little "dump." In this way boys are said to make as much as from \$2.00 to \$5.00 a day, and everyone will admit that they richly deserve it. There are many other ways in which the boys make money. They are always on the lookout for something to sell.

During the summer when the war excitement was on an armfull of newspapers was a bonanza to them. Many a little fellow "struck it rich" with a batch of newspapers. If they cannot get newspapers to sell they will get anything they can get—fresh salmon, fruit, anything to turn an honest penny.

From an educational point of view it is evident that the life of the boys and girls of Dawson is not what might be desired, but the life makes them hearty and self-reliant, and if they do not stay here too long it may perhaps do them more good than harm.

Klondike Output for 1898.

It has been impossible to secure any satisfactory data relative to last year's (1898) output of gold for the Klondike district. Many of



Placer Mine—Bonanza Creek.



Placer Mine—Bonanza Creek.

the miners refuse to give information as to the yield of their mines, and others place a low estimate on theirs in order to evade the payment of royalty to the Canadian government for the full amount.

Up to June 24, 1898, nearly \$500,000 had been paid to the gold commissioners, representing royalties on about \$5,000,000, but since that time nearly \$2,000,000 more has been accounted for. The bankers and agents of commercial companies, who have the best means of knowing the facts, place the output for the season at \$9,000,000, which includes a large amount that evaded the payment of royalty. This aggregate is divided among the different creeks as follows: Eldorado, \$4,000,000; Bonanza, \$3,000,000; Hunker and Bear, \$1,000,000, and Dominion, Sulphur and all other creeks, \$1,000,000. The mint returns and reports from private smelters and refiners show that on November 1st the total receipts amounted to a little more than \$10,000,000, which is probably a correct estimate of the total output.

A large amount of last year's clean-up, however, will remain in the interior to be used as a circulating medium, it being at present used as a form of financial exchange in the country.

Klondikers Wake up to Truth.

We will venture to prophesy—says the Klondike News—that several new towns will boom, bloom and blossom on the American side. There is Star City, at the mouth of Seventy Mile River, and Eagle City, at the mouth of Mission Creek, both destined to be thriving towns.

These two towns will grow for several reasons. In the first place it is now believed that the Seventy Mile, American and Mission Creeks, with their tributaries, will prove fully as rich, of greater extent and more easily worked, than the Klondike diggings. And secondly the inhabitants of these new towns will be able to enjoy life under the too liberal laws of Uncle Sam.

The Canadian law allows a prospector but 250 feet, and but one claim in a "division," while the American regulation permits of as many "1320 feet" claims as there are creeks.

The recording fee on the Canadian side is \$16.00 in gold dust, and on the American side but \$2.50.

Then, too, on the American side there is no annual renewal fee, no alternate claims for Uncle Sam, no ten per cent royalty and only one month's work (amounting to \$100), required each year, while the Canadian regulation calls for three months of continuous work.

The Canadian officials have the power to make new "Rules and Regulations" without notice, which radically change the mining laws in force, and it would seem as though they were trying to discourage the development of their country.

It is quite probable that big strikes will be made on the Upper Klondike this year, and reports of rich finds on the headwaters of the McQuestion are coming in daily, but when everything is taken into consideration, it would seem as though the American side offered the greatest inducements to prospectors.

Miller Creek, which is a tributary of Sixty Mile Creek, but in the Forty Mile district, had many claims that yielded from five to fifty thousand dollars each during the seasons of 1896-97. Walker's Fork,

Napoleon and Davis Creeks, all tributaries of Forty Mile, are known to be rich. Chicken Creek, which was discovered two years ago, is the best creek in the district. It enters Forty Mile about one hundred and fifty miles above its mouth, and can be worked either in winter or in summer. The ground is rich, but irregular.

The greater part of the Forty Mile district was for many years supposed to be in American territory, but by the survey of Mr. William Ogilvie in 1896 (and of which there is some doubt as to its correctness) the Canadian government claims jurisdiction as follows: Gold Creek, Glacier Creek, Miller Creek, all but one mile of Bedrock Creek, Moose Creek, First Fork of Moose Creek, twenty-three miles of Forty Mile River, one mile of the three heads of Smith Creek, one mile of several heads of Canon Creek on the east side of the main stream and about one mile of Davis and Poker Creeks. The boundary line is plainly marked by cuts through the woods from the creek beds to the hill tops.

Circle City will undoubtedly prosper through the coming year and will probably be the largest town in northern Alaska. It is about eighty-five miles in a direct line from the boundary line, although the distance by way of the river is over two hundred miles. Circle City is the distributing point for the Birch Creek Mines, which were discovered in August, 1893.

Birch Creek is about three hundred and fifty miles long. The North Fork has its source in the Ratzel mountains, one hundred miles west of Circle City, flowing to the southward some fifty miles, and then to the eastward nearly one hundred miles, completing an almost perfect semi-circle, at a point eight miles west of Circle City, and thence flowing parallel with the Yukon for a hundred and fifty miles to where it empties into the latter stream below Fort Yukon. The South Fork flows in a northeasterly direction and unites with the North Fork sixty miles southwest of Circle City.

In this district Mastodon Creek is the best, and up to the discovery of the Klondike was known as the richest placer diggings in the world. Not over one-tenth of the claims known to be rich have yet been worked, and yet over three hundred thousand dollars was produced in one summer.

There are ten miles of ground already prospected on this creek which will prove as productive as any ten miles of ground in the Klondike district.

Independence Creek is also known to be rich, but was not worked last year to any great extent, on account of the scarcity of miners. The four claims produced over seventy-five thousand dollars.

Gold Dust Creek has sixty claims which were paying well, but were all abandoned during the Klondike stampede.

Harrison Creek is thirty miles long, and contains about one hundred locations. There is probably not a claim on the creek that will not yield ten dollars to the shovel, and, having an ample supply of water and a good grade, will eventually produce millions under hydraulic pressure.

Porcupine Creek is about the same length as Harrison, and has been located for hydraulic purposes. It was abandoned and is subject to relocation.

Lower Coal Creek is also about thirty miles long and subject to

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Preacher Creek, which enters Birch Creek sixty miles from Circle City, is one hundred and fifty miles in length, and has been prospected but little.

There are a large number of creeks in the Birch Creek district, which will pay from eight to ten dollars to the man but which, of course, cannot be worked at the prevailing wages and under present processes. The gold of these creeks is of better quality than any other district on the Yukon, much of it going as high as \$19 an ounce.

The ground in most of the gulches is shallow and easily worked and are winter as well as summer diggings.

Then there is the Minook district, the Tanana and a large number of other streams which are known to carry gold, and there will be no trouble for the prospector to find plenty of territory to ramble over, without being crowded for elbow room.

Fort Selkirk Rejuvenated.

Old Fort Selkirk, on the Yukon, has been given a new official lease of life. Last fall the stockade and government grounds were bustling with men in the bright-colored uniforms of the English regular artillery and infantry and cavalry—for all these army branches go to the make-up of the detachment just stationed there. They worked night and day to get things in shape for the winter. Barracks had to be built, a big supply of firewood cut and provisions for the little garrison brought down the river.

Fort Selkirk has actually been provided with ordnance; not such ordnance as would cause a rough rider to think twice, but nevertheless ordnance suitable for the Yukon. Two Maxim rapid fire guns and three seven-pounders are planted around the stockade, which includes a number of recently completed buildings. There are eight in all; barracks, officers' quarters and hospital. There are two hundred men of all ranks in the detachment and it is evident they are there to back up the mounted police in their efforts to keep law and order among the miners.

Future of the Yukon Country.

No man who has entered Alaska has had better opportunities for studying the country or is in all ways so competent to forecast its future as Capt. J. J. Healy. Lately he said:

"The Klondike region is, of course, simply phenomenal in richness, and there are probably 200 claims, which will yield \$500,000 each before they are worked out. There is plenty of \$8 and \$10 country all about, which is not worked, but in twenty years from now it will be and the country will support 100,000 miners instead of 25,000. However, the Klondike is but one branch of the Yukon river, of which our country has 1,600 miles and the Canadian government 700. There are probably one thousand tributaries of the Yukon as large as the Klondike and nearly as good. A placer claim that sold for \$25,000 was the highest I ever heard of previous to my going to the Yukon country, and one that sold for \$250,000 was beyond anything I ever

dreamed of—but that is what is seen on the Yukon every day, and the people who purchase them stand to get their money back twice over.

The Yukon is not entirely a poor man's country. A man should either go there without a dollar and prepared to work or he should have plenty of money. The man who goes there with a few dollars soon loses it all in speculation or gambling and then stays there to become a drone on the community or sends for money to bring him back and comes to the United States with a tale of hard luck and disaster on the Yukon. In a year or two, when conditions become settled, and wages approach a reasonable sum, it will be easier for companies to work their claims. When ordinary miners get from \$15 to \$20 a day it is higher than any company can afford to pay and more than I ever heard of in the most prosperous days of Montana and Idaho. By the old time process it cost fifty cents to 60 cents to the one dollar to get the gold out and if we could use ordinary processes it would cost about ten cents. By December 1st the ground is frozen to bedrock and that is the time for the miner to start in. There has been about \$12,000,000 in gold taken out of Alaska in the last twelve months and there will be \$30,000,000 more in the next.

As to the ordinary everyday life in the Yukon country, my wife and I have lived in Dawson for the last year and we are going back in the spring. There are good and bad people there as well as anywhere else. The captain here named as promising camps for this year: Dawson and Fort Cudahy in the Klondike and Eagle City, Circle City, Fort Yukon, Rampart City, Weare and Healey on the island of St. Michael—the last two being supply points.

No Starvation on the Yukon.

The mining camps on the Yukon, from Healy, St. Michael's Island, to Dawson City in the Klondike, could by no possibility suffer privation during last winter. The steamship companies operating on the Yukon, as was ascertained in October had at least 20,000 tons of provisions in warehouses at the various camps on the river, exclusive of a vast quantity stored at Healy.

Captain J. J. Healy of the North American Transportation and Trading Co. gave these figures of the amounts held by that company, and as a guarantee of its purpose to anticipate all demands:

Dawson, 4,000 tons; Fort Cudahy (Forty Mile), 1,500 tons; Circle City, 1,500 tons; Rampart City, 1,000 tons; Fort Yukon, 1,500 tons; Eagle City, 500 tons; Perry City, 500 tons. At the same time a big store and warehouse was under construction at Eagle City to receive further large supplies from the late steamers for the use of the miners on American Creek.

The report concludes: "To put this freight on the river the assistance of outside steamers was necessary. The North American Transportation and Trading Company had besides its regular fleet the river steamers Milwaukee, Gold Star and four of the big Moran boats."

The Outlook for 1899.

On his latest return from Alaska, Capt. J. J. Healy, of the "N. A. T. and T. Co.", was interviewed at Seattle by a representative of the

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N. A. T. & T. Co. River Steamer "John Cudahy" Loaded with Klondikers, at Dawson.

local press and gave these opinions as to the prospects in the Youkon during the season of 1899:

This winters operations will depend largely as to their extent upon the attitude of the Dominion Government. The output for the past season was unquestionably much less than it would have been but for the heavy duties imposed upon the mining and lumbering industries.

It seems strange that the Dominion Government should tax so heavily the two industries that should remain unburdened. When the royalty was placed upon the gold output and the size of the claims were reduced to 250 feet, it sent thousands of prospectors back to the American side.

It is simply 1,320 square feet against 250 feet: The former is the size of the American placer claims and the latter that of Canada.

Mr. Ogilvie, the new Commissioner, is a good man for the country but he is powerless to reduce or abolish the royalty. He told me that himself a short while before I left Dawson. We hope for much from the Canadian Authorities, but of course we are in the dark yet as to what we will get.

We have had a large force of men working on our mining properties all summer, and have not taken out \$1.00 yet. Our method is new in that country, but it has been practiced in Siberia, and it is the only reasonable way of working placer mines in that frozen zone. We merely peel the moss off the ground to as great a depth as possible leaving the mud and gravel exposed to the rays of the sun. In many cases we have reached the gravel and removed part of the muck by sluicing. It will all go off when the sun gets to work next summer. Then it will be possible to sluice out the pay dirt just as is done in warmer climates.

We can then take out as much gold in thirty days sluicing as ordinarily under old methods it would take five years to do.

The output of the Klondike district next season will be treble that of the last year. The country is fast getting down to a business basis. It needs no booming.

The American side of the line is developing rapidly and it will produce heavily next year, so that the total output of the Youkon district will be several times larger than ever before.

Gold-Seekers Move Down Stream.

The Alaskan end of the Youkon basin seems as deserving of careful examination as the portion in Canada. This has come to be appreciated so that soon there will be considerable gold-seeking on the American side of the line. At present the most extensive prospecting on this side is going on along the Koyukuk River. The Koyukuk is the Youkon's largest affluent, having the length of 800 miles or more.

Small steam boats can navigate the stream for most of its course. Years ago, soft gold was washed from bars nearer the source than the mouth, but no coarse gold was found, and the river was deserted for the coarse gold diggings on the Forty Mile and about Circle City. The old time prospecting amounted to next to nothing for no bed rock was examined.

Since June of 1898 about 750 men have gone up the Koyukuk intending to work, and in as much as they are generally equipped

for two years and have more than twenty small steamers of their own, something should come of their presence in this unknown region. Most of them are occupied in getting into winter quarters and not much prospecting has been done.

There are several well-founded reports of rich finds by these late comers, but all that can be said is that "flour" gold has been obtained recently from some bars, and the experienced miners think well of the surface indications away up stream.

Matters at Birch Creek.

Why some men have turned to the Koyukuk instead of Birch Creek is not clear, for the Birch Creek district is known to have value and there is some proved ground obtainable on easy terms and a good deal of room for the prospector.

Probably 500 would cover the population, but before the Yukon freezes this number may be doubled or trebled by miners from Dawson. Birch Creek is more than 300 miles long and has numerous tributaries.

Since 1891 mining has been carried on along branches of the stream lying forty to sixty miles from Circle City, which camp on the Yukon is reached by an over-land travel of eight miles from the creek.

The yield of gold has been about \$2,000,000. When the Bonanza find was made there were about 1,500 to 2,000 persons in the Birch Creek district and they were getting on passably well; but they let go every thing and rushed pell-mell to the Klondike, and when Mr. Samuel Dunham arrived at Circle City, in the summer of 1897, his census numbered only thirty souls.

No very rich spots have been found on Birch Creek and no large fortunes have been made there; but if the rush had not taken place the Circle City diggings would have gone on yielding moderate returns to the hard working, for in the bottom's is to be found a large quantity of low grade gravel which is worth working, and there are creeks that have still no acquaintance with the gold-pan.

A long time will be required to prospect the Birch Creek carefully, and it is too soon to estimate the wealth that will be produced, but whether new strikes be made or not, there will be a large output of gold from Birch Creek placers within the next decade, although it will be just as well to keep in mind that the men who do the digging will have very little fun and will need a big supply of muscle, courage and mosquito netting.

The diggings are most economically operated in the summer.

Wearing Apparel, Outfits, Etc.

With the improvement in transportation service the past year conditions have entirely changed. The North American Transportation and Trading Co. owning fourteen trading posts on the Yukon River and its tributaries, buying its goods by carload lots, transporting same on their own boats, are enabled to furnish prospectors', miners' and tourists' outfits, supplies, etc., in any quantity at reasonable prices, which makes it unnecessary that six months' or a year's supplies coming into the country. Sufficient money to pay your expenses one year should be taken with you.

ON THE CANADIAN SIDE.

General Pointers

The Northwest Territory on the Canadian Side is well known on account of the rich placer mines on the Klondike River and its tributaries, but some new discoveries have recently been made on Stewart River and Thistle Creek, the value of which are not known as yet on account of the strikes having been made about the time of closing of navigation, and full reports have not been received.

The output of the Klondike District for the year of 1898 was about \$14,000,000, and it is confidently expected that it will reach between \$25,000,000 and \$30,000,000 for the year 1899, and will increase accordingly each year as the population and development work increases.

The N. W. Territory Mining Laws.

Following is a synopsis of regulations respecting the Yukon territory:

Timber.

Applications for permission to cut timber in the Yukon Territory, either under license or permit, should be made to the Timber Agents of the Yukon Territory.

Land.

The Commissioner at Dawson is empowered to sell land in the Yukon Territory at an upset price of \$10 an acre cash; also coal lands at the rate of from \$10 to \$20 an acre.

Applications for grazing and hay lands should also be made to the Commissioner at Dawson.

Dredging.

Applications for permission to dredge for minerals in the beds of rivers in the Yukon Territory should be made to the Secretary, Department of the Interior, Ottawa. Not more than thirty miles of river can be leased to one applicant.

Hydraulic Mining.

Applications for locations to be worked by the hydraulic or other mining process should be made to the Minister of the Interior, at Ottawa. Locations shall have a frontage of from one to five miles in direct line by a depth of one mile. Each alternate claim shall be reserved to the Crown.

Entries.

Entry for mining locations, either quartz or placer, shall be obtained from the Mining Recorder in whose district the location is situated, or from the Gold Commissioner at Dawson.

Quartz Claims.

A free miner who has discovered mineral in place may locate a claim not exceeding 1,500 feet long by 1,500 feet wide, by marking it with two legal posts, one at each end, on the line of the lode or vein and marking out the line between the posts, and placing on each of such posts a location notice. The claim shall be recorded with the Mining Recorder of the District within fifteen days after location thereof, if located within ten miles of the Recorder's office, an additional day being allowed for each additional ten miles.

In the event of a claim being more than 100 miles from a Recorder's office and situated where other claims are being located, the Free Miners, not less than five in number, may appoint a Free Miners' Recorder; but if the latter fails within three months to notify the nearest Government Mining Recorder of his appointment, the claims which he may have recorded will be cancelled.

The fee for recording a claim is \$5.

Placer.

Claims in the Yukon Territory are Creek, Gulch, River and Hill claims. They are 250 feet in length measured in the general direction of the creek or river, and from 100 feet to 2,000 feet in width according to the formation of the ground.

Claims are to be marked by two legal posts, one at each end. An entry for a claim must be obtained within ten days if the location is within ten miles of the Mining Recorder's office. One extra day is allowed for every additional ten miles or fraction thereof. In the event of a claim being more than 100 miles from a Recorder's office, the same rule applies as in quartz mining regulations for recording the claim.

The person or company who obtains an entry for a claim must hold a Free Miner's Certificate. Every alternate ten claims are reserved to the Crown.

The discoverer to a claim is entitled to 500 feet in length. If the party consists of two discoverers, two claims may be granted amounting together to 1,000 feet in length. To each member of a party beyond two in number, a claim of the ordinary size only.

An entry fee of \$15 is charged. The holder of a creek, gulch or river claim may within sixty days after staking out the claim obtain an entry for a hill claim adjoining, on payment of fee. This permission is also given to the holder of a creek, gulch or river claim, who prior to January, 1898, obtained an entry therefor, provided the hill claim is available at the time the application is made therefor. No miner shall receive a grant of more than one mining claim in a mining district, the boundaries of which shall be defined by the Mining Recorder; but the same miner may also hold a hill claim and any number of claims by purchase, and any number of miners may unite to work their claims in common.

A claim shall be deemed to be abandoned when the same shall have remained unworked for three consecutive working days of 24 hours each, unless sickness or other reasonable cause be shown to the satisfaction of the Mining Recorder.

It shall not only be necessary for a person or company working

a quartz or placer claim to hold a free miner's certificate, but every person in his, or its, employment shall have a free miner's certificate unexpired.

That Canadian Royalty.

It is very difficult to get claim owners around Dawson to express themselves freely on the subject of their output, owing to the Dominion government law that demands ten per cent royalty on all gold taken out of the ground even to the winter's pannings; hence the impossibility of getting a complete list of claims, owners and probable output of each. Enforcing the payment of this royalty is declared an outrage, even by Canadians here, and is fast proving the straw that breaks the camel's back. For in addition to the long list of extortionate government charges, this last move has engendered a bitter feeling against the Dominion government that is gradually shaping itself into a general exodus from here down the Yukon and over to the American side which has been stampeded and restaked since last January. It promises to be the best camp for the poor man during coming years. This feeling appears to be general and is growing daily as evidenced by the number of boats with new comers that are seen going down the Yukon River every day, their occupants being satisfied to give Dawson and the Dominion government the go by. One of these Americans who has been here two years and long enough to become thoroughly familiar with the situation said:

"We are being plucked on all sides. We undergo untold hardships and sufferings to get here in order to develop their country and how are we received? Before we can either stake a claim or get work of any kind we must pay \$10 for a miners' license, which is nothing more than an annual poll tax. Employers are forbidden to give work to any man not holding a miner's license. Then comes a charge of \$15 for recording a claim located. On firewood for mining purposes you are taxed twenty-five cents a cord and nine cents a running foot for house-logs or saw-logs used to whip saw lumber for sluice boxes. Then there is a system in vogue here of selling indulgences, as it were. If you want to build a bridge you must pay a royalty running up into the thousands, and the same if you want to put a boom across the stream.

Canadian Customs Laws

The Canadian Government passes, free of duty, wearing apparel, articles of personal adornment, toilet articles, and similar personal effects as travelers' baggage for use of persons for immediate purposes of the journey; the duty on the American goods average about thirty per cent, and, so far as is known at present, it is not thought there will be any change in the customs laws this year. It should be borne in mind, however, that nearly all supplies come from United States points, and if bought at Canadian points, duties are added to their cost.

Placer Mining—Panning.

"The process of placer mining is about as follows: After clearing all the coarse gravel and stones off a patch of ground, the miner lifts

a little of the firmer gravel or sand in his pan, which is a broad shallow dish, made of strong sheet iron; he then puts in water enough to fill the pan and gives it a few rapid whirls and shakes; this tends to bring the gold to the bottom on account of its greater specific gravity. The dish is then shaken and held in such a way that the gravel and sand are gradually washed out, care being taken as the process nears completion to avoid letting out the finer and heavier parts that have settled to the bottom. Finally all that is left in the pan is whatever gold that may have been in the dish, and some black sand which invariably accompanies it. This black sand is nothing but pulverized magnetic iron ore.

"Should the gold thus found be fine, the contents of the pan are thrown into a barrel containing water and a pound or two of mercury. As soon as the gold comes in contact with the mercury it combines and forms an amalgam. This process is continued until enough amalgam has been formed to pay for 'roasting' or 'firing.' It is then squeezed through a buckskin bag, all the mercury that comes through the bag being put back into the barrel to serve again, and what remains in the bag is placed in a retort, if the miner has one, or if not, on a shovel, and heated until nearly all the mercury is evaporized. The gold then remains in a lump with some mercury still held in combination with it. This is called the 'pan' or 'hand' method, and is never, on account of its slowness and laboriousness, continued for any length of time when it is possible to procure a 'rocker', or to make and work sluices.

Placer Mining—Rocking.

"A rocker is simply about three feet long and two wide, made with a heavy sheet iron bottom, which is punched full of quarter-inch holes. The other part of the box is fitted with an incline about midway in its depth, which is six or eight inches lower at its lower end than at its upper. Over this is placed a piece of heavy woolen blanket. The whole is then mounted on two rockers, much resembling those of an ordinary cradle, and when in use they are placed on two blocks of wood so that the whole may be readily rocked.

"After the miner has selected his claim he looks for the most convenient place to set up his 'rocker', which must be near a good supply of water.

"Then he proceeds to clear away all the stones and coarse gravel, gathering the finer gravel and sand in a heap near the 'rocker'. The shallow box on top is filled with this, and with one hand the miner rocks it, while with the other hand he ladles in the water. The finer matter with the gold falls through the holes onto the blanket, which checks its progress and holds the fine particles of gold, while the sand and other matter pass over it to the bottom of the box, which is sloped so that what comes through is washed downward and finally out of the box.

"Across the bottom of the box are fixed thin slats, behind which some mercury is placed to catch any particles of gold that may escape the blanket. If the gold is nuggety, the large nuggets are found in the upper box, their weight detaining them until all the lighter stuff has passed through, and the smaller ones are held by a deeper slat at

the outward end of the bottom of the box. The piece of blanket is at intervals taken out and rinsed into a barrel if the gold is fine, mercury being placed at the bottom of the barrel.

Sluicing for Gold.

"Sluicing is always employed when possible. It requires a good supply of water, with sufficient head or fall. The process is as follows: Planks are procured and formed into a box of suitable width and depth. Slats are fixed across the bottom of the box at suitable intervals, or shallow holes are bored in the bottom in such order that no particle could run along the bottom in a straight line and escape running over a hole. Several of these boxes are then set up with a considerable slope, and are fitted into one another at the ends, like a stovepipe. A stream of water is now directed into the upper end of the highest box. The gravel having been collected, as in the case of the rocker, it is shoveled into the upper box, and is washed downward by the strong current of water. The gold is detained by its weight, and is held by the slats or in the holes mentioned; if it is fine, mercury is placed behind the slats or in these holes to catch it.

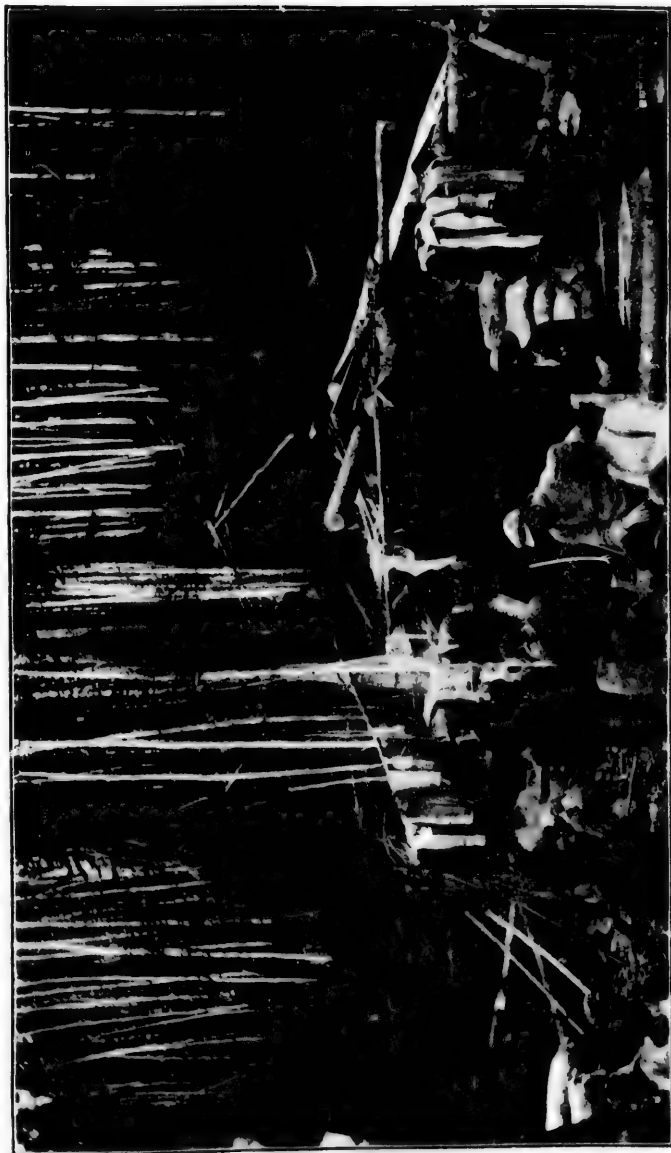
"In this way about three times as much dirt can be washed as by the rocker, and consequently three times as much gold can be secured in a given time.

"A great many of the miners spend their time in the summer prospecting, and in the winter resort to what is called 'burning'. They make fires on the surface, thus thawing the ground until the bed-rock is reached. The pay dirt is brought to the surface and heaped in a pile until spring, when water can be obtained. The sluice boxes are then set up and the dirt is washed out, thus enabling the miner to work advantageously and profitably the year round. This method has been found very satisfactory in places where the pay streak is at any great depth from the surface. In this way the complaint is overcome which has so commonly been advanced by the miners and others that in the Yukon several months of the year are lost in idleness. Winter usually sets in very soon after the middle of September and continues until the beginning of June. The mercury frequently falls to 60 degrees below zero, but in the interior there is so little humidity in the atmosphere that the cold is more easily endured than on the coast. In the absence of thermometers, miners, it is said, leave their mercury out all night and when they find it frozen solid in the morning they conclude that it is too cold to work. The temperature runs to great extremes in summer, as well as in winter, it being quite a common thing for the thermometer to register 100 degrees in the shade."

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Gold Miners' Cabin - Bonanza Creek.

THE AMERICAN SIDE.

Minerals.—Gold, silver, copper, galena, antimony, plumbago, mica, asbestos, coal, iron, cinnabar, sulphur and other metals and minerals have been found in Alaska. The many tributaries along both sides of the 2,000 miles of the Yukon River not yet prospected, offers splendid opportunities to the prospector, and the further discovery of gold bearing quartz on the American side will no doubt lead to a great stampede in that direction.

The American side is developing wonderfully. The principal strikes being near Eagle City on Forty Mile River, Mission and American Creeks; Star City on Seventy Mile River; Independence City on Charlie River; Circle City on Birch Creek; Fort Yukon on Porcupine River; Rampart on Manook Creek; Weare on Tanana River, and up the Koyukuk River; also in Golovin Bay and Fish River Districts, off from Norton Sound. The above rivers and creeks have rich tributaries and the mines promise big outputs in the near future.

To reach these points by the route of the N. A. T. and T. Co. you pay but one fare including meals and berths, and with but one transfer at Healy, St. Michael's Island.

Secure your transportation via the N. A. T. and T. line and you will then know before you start how much it will cost you and when you will reach your destination.

Remember that its boats will be the first to reach these new diggings and you will save both time and money by waiting for the first trip of the elegant and commodious ocean steamship "Roanoke", sailing from Seattle on or about June 10th, 1899.

Work on American Creeks.

The creeks on the American side are mostly shallow or summer diggings, suitable for ground sluicing or hydraulic work. They can be worked much cheaper than deep diggings where the ground has to be burned and hoisted with a bucket and windlass. On many of these creeks the gold is found distributed throughout the ground, and not on bed rock only, as is the case in the deep diggings in the Klondike district. All prospected work can be done to better advantage in the winter when the ground is frozen to bed-rock, than in summer, when water is liable to drive out the prospector.

Discovery claim on Walker's Fork, owned by the Pierce Bros., was prospected last winter, by sinking to bed rock, at intervals across the creek. Bed rock was found at a depth of six to eight feet, and a pay streak was located 145 feet wide on bed rock, from one to two feet thick. This ground would go from 3 cents to 40 cents to the pan. They were working this claim in August and taking out from 1 to 3 ounces per day to the man. It is the only claim on the creek being worked; others are being prospected and better pay reported on claims six and eight miles below Discovery. This creek is seventy-five or eighty miles long, with many tributaries. Poker and Davis, empty-

ing near Discovery, were being worked when the Klondike was struck, and during the past summer several claims have been worked again, producing from 1 to 2 ounces per man ground sluicing.

Other tributaries are Cherry, Big Shookum, Twelve Mile, Liberty, McKinley, Wade, etc. All have been found gold-bearing. The size of claims on the American side is twenty acres; 1320 by 660 feet where local regulations have not restricted the size of claims. On Walkers' Fork claims are 1000 feet instead of 1320.

Miners on each creek, if they so desire, can authorize and pass laws not in conflict with the United States laws governing their own district.

Canadians Not Shut Out.

It is provided by the act of reciprocity passed by the United States as to mining claims in Alaska: That native-born citizens of the Dominion of Canada shall be accorded in said District of Alaska the same mining rights and privileges accorded to citizens of the United States in British Columbia and the Northwest Territory by the laws of the Dominion of Canada or the local laws, rules and regulations; but no greater rights shall be thus accorded than citizens of the United States or persons who have declared their intention to become such may enjoy in said District of Alaska; and the Secretary of the Interior shall from time to time promulgate and enforce rules and regulations to carry this provision into effect.—Public Bill No. 39, Sec. 13; approved May 14th, 1898.

MINING LAWS IN ALASKA.

Placer Claims.

The general mining laws of the United States apply to Alaska. Claims usually called "placers" are subject to entry and patent under United States mining law. No single individual can locate more than twenty acres of placer land, and no location by an association of persons can exceed one hundred and sixty acres. These are the maximum amounts which can be located by a person or association, but smaller areas can be located, and this has been done in several cases in Alaska where there is not sufficient ground to allot full sized claims. The price per acre of placer claims is \$2.50.

When a placer contains veins or lodes, the cost per acre for such included vein or lode, with twenty-five feet on each side thereof, is \$5 per acre, the remainder, the ordinary price for placer land. If the claim be all placer ground, the fact must be stated in the application and corroborated by accompanying proofs. If of mixed placers and lodes it should be set out with a description of all known lodes, separately, situated in the boundaries of the claim. A specific declaration as to each lode intended to be claimed must be made, any other lode known to exist within the limits of such placer claim, and not covered by such declaration, is by the silence of the applicant excluded by law from all claimed by him of whatsoever nature, possessory or otherwise.

When a new district is discovered, miners may select a Recorder of Claims, providing no regular government official, authorized to perform such duties, is within convenient distance. All locations must be distinctly marked on the ground, and the official survey thereof is required to be identical with or within the lines of the recorded location.

Lode Claims.

A lode location may contain an area of twenty and sixty-six hundredths acres. It may be fifteen hundred feet in length and six hundred feet in width, but no more. The end lines of a location must be parallel. The location must be distinctly marked on the ground. The official survey of same is required to be identical with or within the lines of location. The price for a lode claim is \$5 per acre.

Patent.

A patent for land claimed or located under the United States Mining Laws applicable to Alaska may be obtained in the following manner:

Any person, association or corporation, entitled by law to locate mineral lands, having a valid location on placer ground or vein or lode, wishing to make entry of same must first have an official survey of it. The survey must be executed by a duly appointed United States Deputy Mineral Surveyor. The first step to be taken to secure this end is to obtain a certified copy of the location notice from the Recorder of the district in which the claim is situated of the claim sought to be surveyed, and forward same to the United States Surveyor General with an application for survey, together with a request that an estimate of the cost in connection therewith be furnished. If the location conforms to law and regulations thereunder, the estimate will be furnished. The applicant will then deposit the required amount in some United States Depository, and upon receipt of the duplicate certificate of deposit by the Surveyor General, he will issue order for survey.

Upon approval of the survey by the Surveyor General, the applicant will be furnished with two approved plats and a certified copy of the field notes thereof. The claimant will then post one of the plats, together with a notice of application for patent, in a conspicuous place on the land embraced in such plat. The claimant will then file the other plat and the certified copy of the field notes with his application for patent in the proper U. S. Land Office, together with the affidavit of, at least, two persons that the proper notice has been duly posted on the claim, and shall file a copy of said notice in such Land Office, and shall thereupon be entitled to a patent to the land in the following manner:

The Register of said Land Office, upon the filing of such application, plat, field notes, notices and affidavits, shall publish a notice that such application has been made, for a period of sixty days in a newspaper, to be by him designated as published, nearest to such claim, and he shall post such notice in his office for the same period. The claimant at the time of filing such application, or at any time thereafter, within sixty days of publication, shall file with Register

a certificate of the U. S. Surveyor General, that \$500 worth of work has been expended, or improvement made upon the claim by himself or grantors; that the plat is correct, with such further description of natural object by reference to natural objects or permanent monuments as shall identify the claim and furnish an accurate description to be incorporated in the patent, at the expiration of the sixty days of publication, the claimant shall file his affidavit showing that the plat and notice have been posted in a conspicuous place on the claim during the period of publication. If no adverse claim shall have been filed with the Register of the Land Office at the expiration of said sixty days, the claimant is entitled to a patent, upon the payment to the proper office of \$5 per acre in the case of a lode claim, and \$2.50 for a placer.

The Act of Congress of May 17, 1884, providing a civil government for Alaska, provides that: "The laws of the United States relating to mining claims and the rights incident thereto, shall, from and after the passage of this act, be in full force and effect in said district." The further mining laws applicable are as follows:

United States Revised Statutes, Sec. 2318. In all cases lands valuable for minerals shall be reserved from sale, except as otherwise expressly directed by law.

Sec. 2319. All valuable mineral deposits in lands belonging to the United States, both surveyed and unsurveyed, are hereby declared to be free and open to exploration and purchase, and the lands in which they are found to occupation and purchase, by citizens of the United States and those who have declared their intention to become such, under regulations prescribed by law, and according to the local customs or rules of miners in the several mining districts, so far as the same are applicable and not inconsistent with the laws of the United States.

Sec. 2320. Mining claims upon veins or lodes or quartz or other rock in place, bearing gold, silver, cinnabar, lead, tin, copper, or other valuable deposits heretofore located, shall be governed as to length along the vein or lode by the customs, regulations and laws in force at the date of location. A mining claim located after the tenth of May, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, whether located by one or more persons, may equal but shall not exceed, one thousand five hundred feet in length along the vein or lode; but no location of a mining claim shall be made until the discovery of the vein or lode within the limits of the claim located. No claim shall extend more than three hundred feet on each side of the middle of the vein at the surface, nor shall any claim be limited by any mining regulation to less than twenty-five feet on each side of the middle of the vein at the surface, except where adverse rights existing on the tenth day of May, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, render such limitation necessary. The end lines of each claim shall be parallel to each other.

Sec. 2322. The locators of all mining locations heretofore made or which shall hereafter be made, on any mineral vein, lode, or ledge, situated on the public domain, their heirs and assigns, where no adverse claim exists on the tenth day of May, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, so long as they comply with the laws of the United

States, and with State, territorial, and local regulations not in conflict with the laws of the United States governing their possessory title, shall have the exclusive right of possession and enjoyment of all the surface included within the lines of their locations, and of all veins, lodes, or ledges, throughout their entire depth, and the top of apex which lies inside of such surface lines extended downward vertically, although such veins, lodes or ledges may so far depart from a perpendicular in their course downward as to extend outside the vertical outside lines of such surface locations. But their right of possession to such outside parts of such veins or ledges shall be confined to such portions thereof as lie between vertical planes drawn downward as above described through the end lines of their locations, so continued in their own direction that such planes will intersect such exterior parts of such veins or ledges. And nothing in this section shall authorize the locator or possessor of a vein or lode which extends in its downward course beyond the vertical lines of his claim to enter upon the surface of a claim owned or possessed by another.

Sec. 2324. The miners of each mining district shall make regulations not in conflict with the laws of the United States, or with the laws of the state or territory in which the district is situated, governing the location, manner of recording, amount of work necessary to hold possession of a mining claim, subject to the following requirements: The location must be distinctly marked on the ground so that its boundaries can be readily traced. All records of mining claims hereafter made shall contain the name or names of the locators, the date of the location and such description of the claim or claims located by reference to some natural object or permanent monument as will identify the claim. On each claim located after the tenth day of May, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, and until a patent has been issued therefor, not less than one hundred dollars' worth of labor shall be performed or improvement made during each year. On all claims located prior to the tenth of May, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, ten dollars' worth of labor shall be performed, or improvements made by the tenth of June, eighteen hundred and seventy-four, and each year thereafter for each one hundred feet along the vein until a patent has been issued therefor; but where such claims are held in common, such expenditure may be made upon any one claim; and upon failure to comply with these conditions, the claim or mine upon which such failure occurred shall be opened to relocation in the same manner as if no location of the same had ever been made: Provided, that the original locators, their heirs, assigns, or legal representatives, have not resumed work upon the claim after failure and before such location. Upon the failure of anyone of several co-owners who have performed the labor, or made the improvements may, at the expiration of the year, give such delinquent co-owner personal notice in writing or notice by publication in the newspaper published nearest the claim, for at least once a week for ninety days, and if at the expiration of ninety days after such notice in writing, or by publication, such delinquent should fail or refuse to contribute his proportion of the expenditure required by this section, his interest in the claim shall become the property of his co-owners, who have made the expenditures.

Sec. 2336. Where two or more veins intersect or cross each other, priority of title shall govern, and such prior location shall be entitled to all ore or mineral contained within the space of intersection; but the subsequent location shall have the right of way through the space of intersection for the purposes of the convenient working of the mine. And where two or more veins unite, the oldest, or prior location shall take the vein below the point of union, including the space of intersection.

Sec. 2325. A patent for any land claimed and located for valuable deposits may be obtained in the following manner: Any person, association or corporation authorized to locate a claim under this chapter, having claimed and located a piece of land for such purposes, who has, or have, complied with the terms of this chapter, may file in the proper land office an application for a patent, under oath, showing such compliance, together with a plat and field notes of the claim or claims in common, made by, or under the direction of the United States Surveyor-General, showing accurately the boundaries of the claim or claims, which shall be distinctly marked by monuments on the ground, and shall post a copy of such plat, together with a notice of such application for a patent in a conspicuous place on the land embraced in such plat previous to the filing of the application for a patent and shall file an affidavit of at least two persons that such notice has been duly posted, and shall file a copy of such notice in such land office, and shall thereupon be entitled to a patent for the land, in the manner following: The register of the land office, upon the filing of such application, plat, field notes, notices, and affidavits, shall publish a notice that such application has been made, for the period of sixty days in a newspaper to be by him designated as published nearest to such claim; and he shall also post such notice in his office for the same period. The claimant at the time of filing this application, or at any time thereafter, within sixty days of publication, shall file with the register a certificate of the United States surveyor-general that five hundred dollars' worth of labor has been expended on improvements made upon the claim by himself or grantors; that the plat is correct, with such further description by such reference to natural objects or permanent monuments as shall identify the claim and furnish an accurate description, to be incorporated in the patent. At the expiration of the sixty days of publication the claimant shall file his affidavit showing that the plat and notice have been posted in a conspicuous place on the claim during such period of publication. If no adverse claim shall have been filed with the register and the receiver of the proper land office at the expiration of the sixty days of publication, it shall be assumed that the applicant is entitled to a patent, upon the payment to the proper officer of five dollars per acre, and that no adverse claim exists; and that thereafter no objections from third parties to the issuance of a patent shall be heard, except it be shown that the applicant has failed to comply with the terms of this chapter.

Sec. 2327. The description of vein or lode claims, upon surveyed lands, shall designate the location of the claim with reference to the lines of the public surveys, but need not conform therewith; but where a patent shall be issued for claims upon unsurveyed lands, the

surveyor-general, in extending the surveys shall adjust the same to the boundaries of such patented claims, according to the plat or description thereof, but so as in no case to interfere with or change the location of any such patented claim.

Act of Congress of January 22, 1880.—An act to amend sections twenty-three hundred and twenty-four and twenty-three hundred and twenty-five of the Revised Statutes of the United States concerning mineral lands.

Be it enacted, etc., That section twenty-three hundred and twenty-five of the Revised Statutes of the United States be amended by adding hereto the following words: "Provided, That where the claimant for a patent is not a resident of or in the land district wherein the vein, lode, ledge or deposit sought to be patented is located, the application for patent and the affidavits required to be made in this section by the claimant for such patent may be made by his, her, or its authorized agent where said agent is conversant with the facts sought to be established by said affidavits; and provided, That this section shall apply to all applications now pending for patents to mineral lands."

Sec. 2. That section twenty-three hundred and twenty-four of the Revised Statutes of the United States be amended by adding thereto the following words: "Provided, That the period in which the work required to be done annually on all unpatented mineral claims shall commence on the first day of January succeeding the date of location of such claim, and this section shall apply to all claims located since the tenth of May, anno Domini eighteen hundred and seventy-two."

Act of Congress of February 11, 1875.—An act to amend section two thousand three hundred and twenty-four of the Revised Statutes, relating to the development of the mining resources of the United States.

Be it enacted, etc., That section two thousand three hundred and twenty-four of the Revised Statutes be, and the same is hereby amended to that where a person or company has, or may run a tunnel for the purpose of developing a lode, or lodes, owned by said person or company, the money so expended in said tunnel shall be taken and considered as expended on said lode or lodes in order to hold the same as required by said act. (See page 43.)

United States Law.—Sec. 2323. Where a tunnel is run for the development of a vein or lode, or for the discovery of mines, the owners of such tunnels shall have the right of possession of all veins or lodes within three thousand feet from the face of such tunnel on the line thereof, not previously known to exist, discovered in such tunnel, to the same extent as if discovered from the surface; and such locations on the line of such tunnel of veins or lodes not appearing on the surface, made by other parties after the commencement of the tunnel, and while the same is being prosecuted with reasonable diligence, shall be invalid; but failure to prosecute the work on the tunnel for six months shall be considered as an abandonment of the right to all undiscovered veins on the line of such tunnel.

PLACER CLAIMS.

Sec. 2329. Claims usually called "placers," including all forms of deposit, excepting veins of quartz, or other rock in place, shall be subject to entry and patent, under like circumstances and conditions, and upon similar proceedings, as are provided for vein or lode claims; but where the lands have been previously surveyed by the United States, the entry in its exterior limits shall conform to the legal subdivisions of the public lands.

United States Law.—Sec. 2330. Legal subdivisions of forty acres may be subdivided into ten-acre tracts; and two or more persons, or associations of persons, having contiguous claims of any size, although such claims may be less than ten acres each, may take joint entry thereof; but no location of a placer claim, made after the ninth day of July, eighteen hundred and seventy, shall exceed one hundred and sixty acres for any person, or association of persons, which location shall conform to the United States surveys; and nothing in this section contained shall defeat or impair any bona fide pre-emption or homestead claims upon agricultural lands, or authorize the sale of improvements of any bona fide settler to any purchaser.

Sec. 2331. Where placer-claims are upon surveyed lands, and conform to legal subdivisions, no further survey or plat shall be required, and all placer-mining claims located after the tenth of May, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, shall conform as near as practicable with the United States system of public lands surveys, and no such location shall include more than twenty acres for each individual claimant; but where placer-claims cannot be conformed to legal subdivisions, survey and plat shall be made as on unsurveyed lands; and where by the segregation of mineral lands in any legal subdivisions a quantity of agricultural land less than forty acres remains, such fractional portions of agricultural lands may be entered by any party qualified by law, for homestead or pre-emption purposes.

PLACER CLAIMS CONTAINING LODES.

United States Law.—Sec. 2333. Where the same person, association or corporation is in possession of a placer-claim, and also a vein or lode included within the boundaries thereof, application shall be made for a patent for the placer claim, with the statement that it includes such vein or lode, and in such case a patent shall issue for a placer-claim, subject to the provisions of this chapter, including such vein or lode, upon the payment of five dollars per acre for such vein or lode claim, and twenty-five feet of surface on each side thereof. The remainder of the placer-claim, or any placer-claim not embracing any vein or lode claim, shall be paid at the rate of two dollars and fifty cents per acre, together with all costs of proceedings; and where a vein or lode, such as is described in section twenty-three hundred and twenty, is known to exist within the boundaries of a placer-claim, an application for a patent for such placer-claim which does not include an application for the vein or lode claim shall be construed as a conclusive declaration that the claimant of the placer-claim has no right of possession of the vein or lode claim; but where the existence of a vein or lode in a placer-claim is not known, a patent for

the placer-claim shall convey all valuable mineral and other deposits within the boundaries thereof.

United States Law.—Sec. 2332. Where such person, or association, they and their grantors have held and worked their claims for a period equal to the time prescribed by the statute of limitations for mining claims of the State or Territory where the same may be situated, evidence of such possession and the working of the claims for such period shall be sufficient to establish a right to a patent thereto under this chapter, in the absence of any adverse claim; but nothing in this chapter shall be deemed to impair any lien which may have attached in any way whatever to any mining claim or property thereto attached prior to the issuance of a patent.

United States Law.—Sec. 2321. Proof of citizenship, under this chapter, may consist, in the case of an individual, of his own affidavit thereof; in the case of an association of persons unincorporated, of the affidavit of their authorized agent, made on his own knowledge, or upon information and belief, and in the case of a corporation organized under the laws of the United States, or of any State or Territory thereof, by the filing of a certified copy of their charter or certificate of incorporation.

FORM 1.—DISCOVERY NOTICE.

The lode, discovered by
189.....claim feet.....and.....feet from discovery.

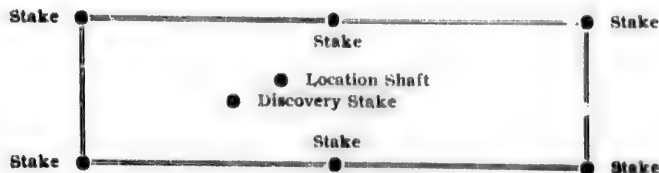
The above form may be used by prospectors who cannot at the time of discovery run the lines, and definitely describe the location; with a reasonable time (thirty days), the lines should be surveyed or definitely located, and a new location notice posted. (See form below.)

FORM 2.—NOTICE OF LOCATION.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned having complied with the requirements of chapter 6, title 32, Revised Statutes of the United States, and the local customs, laws and regulations, has located linear feet on the lode, situated in mining district, in County, State of; described as follows:.....

Discovered..... Located..... Locator.

Care must be taken to describe the claim accurately by reference to natural objects, such as mountains or spurs, and the boundaries must be also distinctly marked on the ground to show the extent and location of the claim, being suitable monuments. Should be as nearly as practicable as the following diagram:



FORM 3.—LOCATION CERTIFICATE.—LODE CLAIM.

Know all men by these presents, that I,
of the County of State of claim by
right of discovery and location feet, linear and horizontal
measurement, on the lode, along the vein thereof, with
all its dips, variations, and angles; together with feet in
width on each side of the middle of said vein at the surface, and all
veins, lodes, ledges, deposits and surface ground within the lines of
said claim; feet on said lode running from the
center of the discovery shaft, and feet, running
from said center of discovery shaft.

Said claim is situated in the of in
mining district, county of State of and
bounded and described as follows:

Date of discovery 189... Staked and located
..... 189... Date of certificate 189...

Attest:

As a part of this form, and in addition to the data therein given
the claimant is required to state the names of adjoining claims, and
if none adjoin, the relative positions of those nearest, or show by
affidavit or otherwise why this is not done. This is an essential re-
quirement.

This notice must be recorded in the office of the mining recorder
and in the office of the auditor of the county in which the claim is
situate.

FORM 10.—APPLICATION FOR PATENT.

....., County of ss.

Application for patent for the mining claim. To
the Register and Receiver of the U. S. Land Office at,
being duly sworn according to law, deposes and says, that in virtue
of a compliance with the mining rules, regulations and customs, by
himself, the said, and his co-claimants (residence
of each should be stated),, applicants for patent herein
have become the owner of and in the actual, quiet
and undisturbed possession of linear feet of the
vein, lode or deposit, bearing, together with surface
ground feet in width, for the convenient working thereof,
as allowed by local rules and customs of miners; said mineral claim,
vein, lode or deposit and surface ground being situated in the
..... mining district, county of, and of
....., and being more particularly set forth and described
in the official field notes of survey thereof, hereto attached, dated
..... day of, A. D., 189..., and in the
official plat of said survey, now posted conspicuously upon said mining
claim or premises, a copy of which is filed herewith. Deponent further
states that the facts relative to the right of possession of himself (and
his said co-claimants hereinbefore named) to said mining claim, vein,
lode or deposit and surface ground, so surveyed and platted, are sub-
stantially as follows, to-wit:

(Trace the history of the lode fully.) Which will more fully appear by reference to the copy of the original record of location and the abstract of title hereto attached and made a part of this affidavit; the value of the labor done and improvements made upon said claim, by himself and his grantors, being to the sum of five hundred dollars, and said improvements consist of (describe fully). In consideration of which facts, and in conformity with the provisions of Chapter Six of Title Thirty-two of the Revised Statutes of the United States, application is hereby made for and in behalf of said for a patent from the Government of the United States for the said mining claim, vein, lode, deposit, and the surface ground so officially surveyed and platted.

Subscribed to and sworn to before me this day of, A. D., 189..., and I hereby certify that I consider the above deponent a credible and reliable person, and that the foregoing affidavit, to which was attached the field notes of survey of the mining claim, was read and examined by him before his signature was affixed thereto and the oath made by him.

(Official Signature.)

Note.—The above is slightly changed in applying for placer mines.

THE CANADIAN MINING LAWS.

NATURE AND SIZE OF CLAIMS.

10. A creek or gulch claim shall be 250 feet long measured in the general direction of the creek or gulch. The boundaries of the claim which run in the general direction of the creek or gulch shall be lines along bed or rim rock three feet higher than the rim or edge of the creek, or the lowest general level of the gulch within the claim, so drawn or marked as to be at every point three feet above the rim or edge of the creek or the lowest general level of the gulch, opposite to it at right angles to the general direction of the claim for its length, but such boundaries shall not in any case exceed 1,000 feet on each side of the center of the stream or gulch. (See Diagram No. 1.)

11. If the boundaries be less than one hundred feet apart horizontally they shall be lines traced along bed or rim rock one hundred feet apart horizontally, following as nearly as practicable the direction of the valley for the length of the claim. (See Diagram No. 2.)

12. A river claim shall be situated only on one side of the river and shall not exceed 250 feet in length, measured in the general direction of the river. The other boundary of the claim which runs in the general direction of the river shall be lines along bed or rim rock three feet higher than the rim or edge of the river within the claim so drawn or marked as to be at every point three feet above the rim or edge of the river opposite to it at right angles to the general direction of the claim for its length, but such boundaries shall not in any case be less than 250 feet, or exceed a distance of 1,000 feet from low-water mark of the river. (See Diagram No. 3.)

13. A "hill claim" shall not exceed 250 feet in length, drawn parallel to the main direction of the stream or ravine on which it fronts. Parallel lines drawn from each end of the base line at right angles thereto, and running to the summit of the hill (provided the distance

does not exceed 1,000 feet) shall constitute the end boundaries of the claim.

14. All other placer claims shall be 250 feet square.

15. Every placer claim shall be as nearly as possible rectangular in form, and marked by two legal posts firmly fixed in the ground in the manner shown in diagram No. 4. The line between the two posts shall be well cut out so that one post may, if the nature of the surface will permit, be seen from the other. The flatted side of each post shall face the claim, and on each post shall be written on the side facing the claim, a legible notice stating the name or number of the claim, or both if possible, its length in feet, the date when staked, and the full Christian and surname of the locator.

16. Every alternate ten claims shall be reserved for the Government of Canada. That is to say when a claim is located, the discoverer's claim and nine additional claims adjoining each other and numbered consecutively will be open for registration. Then the next ten claims of 250 feet each will be reserved for the Government, and so on. The alternate group of claims reserved for the Crown shall be disposed of in such manner as may be decided by the Minister of the Interior.

17. The penalty for trespassing upon a claim reserved for the Crown, shall be immediate cancellation by the Mining Recorder of any entry or entries which the person trespassing may have obtained, whether by original entry or purchase, for a mining claim, and the refusal by the Mining Recorder of the acceptance of any application which the person trespassing may at any time make for a claim. In addition to such penalty, the Mounted Police, upon a requisition from the Mining Recorder to that effect, shall take the necessary steps to eject the trespasser.

18. In defining the size of claims, they shall be measured horizontally irrespective of inequalities on the surface of the ground.

19. If any free miner or party of free miners discover a new mine, and such discovery shall be established to the satisfaction of the Mining Recorder, creek, river, or hill, claims of the following size shall be allowed, namely:

To one discoverer, one claim, 500 feet in length.

To a party of two discoverers, two claims, amounting together to 1,000 feet in length.

To each member of a party beyond two in number, a claim of the ordinary size only.

20. A new stratum of auriferous earth or gravel situated in a locality where the claims have been abandoned shall for this purpose be deemed a new mine, although the same locality shall have been previously worked at a different level.

21. The forms of application for a grant for placer mining, and the grant of the same, shall be those contained in Forms "H" and "I" in the schedule hereto.

22. A claim shall be recorded with the Mining Recorder in whose district it is situated, within ten days after the location thereof, if it is located within ten miles of the Mining Recorder's office. One extra day shall be allowed for every additional ten miles or fraction thereof.

23. In the event of the claim being more than one hundred miles from a Recorder's office, and situated where other claims are being located, the free miners, not less than five in number, are authorized to

meet and appoint one of their number a "Free Miners' Recorder," who shall act in that capacity until a Mining Recorder is appointed by the Gold Commissioner.

24. The "Free Miners' Recorder" shall at the earliest possible date after his appointment, notify the nearest Government Mining Recorder thereof, and upon the arrival of the Government Mining Recorder, he shall deliver to him his records and the fees received for recording the claims. The Government Mining Recorder shall then grant to each free miner whose name appears in the records, an entry for his claim on form "I" of these regulations, provided an application has been made by him in accordance with form "H" thereof. The entry to date from the time the "Free Miners' Recorder" recorded the application.

25. If the "Free Miners' Recorder" fails within three months to notify the nearest Government Mining Recorder of his appointment, the claims which he may have recorded will be canceled.

26. During the absence of the Mining Recorder from his office, the entry for a claim may be granted by any person whom he may appoint to perform his duties in his absence.

27. Entry shall not be granted for a claim which has not been staked by the applicant in person in the manner specified in these regulations. An affidavit that the claim was staked out by the applicant shall be embodied in form "H" in the schedule hereto.

28. An entry fee of fifteen dollars shall be charged the first year, and an annual fee of fifteen dollars for each of the following years. This provision shall apply to claims for which entries have already been granted.

29. A statement of the entries granted and fees collected shall be rendered by the Mining Recorder to the Gold Commissioner at least every three months, which shall be accompanied by the amount collected.

30. A royalty of ten per cent on the gold mined shall be levied and collected on the gross output of each claim. The royalty may be paid at banking offices to be established under the auspices of the Government of Canada, or to the Gold Commissioner, or to any Mining Recorder authorized by him. The sum of \$2,500 shall be deducted from the gross annual output of a claim when estimating the amount upon which royalty is to be calculated, but this exemption shall not be allowed unless the royalty is paid at a banking office or to the Gold Commissioner or Mining Recorder. When the royalty is paid monthly or at longer periods, the deduction shall be made ratable on the basis of \$2,500 per annum for the claim. If not paid to the bank, Gold Commissioner, or Mining Recorder, it shall be collected by the customs officials or police officers when the miner passes the posts established at the boundary of a district. Such royalty to form part of the consolidated revenue, and to be accounted for by the officers who collect the same in due course. The time and manner in which such royalty shall be collected shall be provided for by regulations to be made by the Gold Commissioner.

31. Default in payment of such royalty, if continued for ten days after notice has been posted on the claim in respect of which it is demanded, or in the vicinity of such claim, by the Gold Commissioner or his agent, shall be followed by cancellation of the claim. Any attempt to defraud the Crown by withholding any part of the revenue

thus provided for, by making false statements of the amount taken out, shall be punished by cancellation of the claim in respect of which fraud or false statements have been committed or made. In respect to the facts as to such fraud or false statements or non-payment of royalty, the decision of the Gold Commissioner shall be final.

32. After the recording of a claim the removal of any post by the holder thereof or by any person acting in his behalf for the purpose of changing the boundaries of his claim, shall act as a forfeiture of the claim.

33. The entry of every holder of a grant for placer mining must be renewed and his receipt relinquished and replaced every year, the entry fee being paid each time.

34. The holder of a creek, gulch, or river claim may, within sixty days after staking out the claim, obtain an entry for a hill claim adjoining it, by paying to the Mining Recorder the sum of one hundred dollars. This permission shall also be given to the holder of a creek, gulch, or river claim obtained under former regulations, provided that the hill claim is available at the time an application is made therefor.

35. No miner shall receive a grant of more than one mining claim in a mining district, the boundaries of which shall be defined by the Mining Recorder, but the same miner may also hold a hill claim, acquired by him under these regulations in connection with a creek, gulch, or river claim, and any number of claims by purchase; and any number of miners may unite to work their claims in common, upon such terms as they may arrange, provided such agreement is registered with the Mining Recorder and a fee of five dollars paid for each registration.

36. Any free miner or miners may sell, mortgage, or dispose of his or their claims, provided such disposal be registered with, and a fee of two dollars paid to the Mining Recorder, who shall thereupon give the assignee a certificate in the form "J" in the schedule hereto.

37. Every free miner shall during the continuance of his grant have the exclusive right of entry upon his own claim for the miner-like working thereof, and the construction of a residence thereon, and shall be entitled exclusively to all the proceeds realized therefrom, upon which, however, the royalty prescribed by these regulations shall be payable; provided that the Mining Recorder may grant to the holders of other claims such right of entry thereon as may be absolutely necessary for the working of their claims, upon such terms as may to him seem reasonable. He may also grant permits to miners to cut timber thereon for their own use.

38. Every free miner shall be entitled to the use of so much of the water naturally flowing through or past his claim, and not already lawfully appropriated, as shall, in the opinion of the Mining Recorder, be necessary for the due working thereof, and shall be entitled to drain his own claim free of charge.

39. A claim shall be deemed to be abandoned and open to occupation and entry by any person when the same shall have remained unworked on working days, excepting during the close season, by the grantee thereof or by some person on his behalf for the space of seventy-two hours, unless sickness or other reasonable cause be

shown to the satisfaction of the Mining Recorder, or unless the grantee

*72 hours means three consecutive days of 24 hours each.

is absent on leave given by the Mining Recorder, and the Mining Recorder, upon obtaining evidence satisfactory to himself that this provision is not being complied with, may cancel the entry given for a claim.

FORM H.—APPLICATION FOR GRANT FOR PLACER MINING AND AFFIDAVIT OF APPLICANT.

I (or we) of hereby apply, under the Yukon Placer Mining Regulations, for a grant of a claim for placer mining as defined in the said regulations, in (here describe locality) and I (or we) solemnly swear:

1. That from indications I (or we) have observed on the claim applied for, I (or we) have reason to believe that there is therein a deposit of gold.

2. That I (or we) am (or are) to the best of my (or our) knowledge and belief the first to observe such indications, or:

3. That the said claim was previously granted to (here name the last grantee) but has remained unworked by the said grantee for not less than

4. That I (or we) am (or are) unaware that the land is other than vacant Dominion Lands.

5. That I (or we) did on the day of mark out on the ground, in accordance in every particular with the provisions of the mining regulations for the Yukon District, the claim for which I (or we) make this application, and in so doing I (or we) did not encroach on any other claim or mining location previously laid out by any other person.

6. That the length of the said claim, as nearly as I (or we) could measure is feet, and that the description of this date hereto attached, signed by me (or us) sets (or set) forth in detail, to the best of my (or our) knowledge and ability, its position.

7. That I (or we) make this application in good faith, to acquire the claim for the sole purpose of mining to be prosecuted by myself (or us) or by myself and associates, or by my (or our) assigns.

Sworn before me at this day of 18..

(Signature)

FORM I.—GRANT FOR PLACER MINING.

No.

Department of the Interior,

Agency 18...

In consideration of the payment of the fee of fifteen dollars prescribed by clause 28 of the mining regulations for the Yukon District, by (A. B.) of accompanying his (or their) application No. dated 18..., for a mining claim in (here insert description of locality).

The Minister of Interior hereby grants to the said (A. B.) for the term of one year from the date hereof, the exclusive right of entry upon the claim (here describe in detail the claim granted) for the miner-like working thereof, and the construc-

tion of a residence thereon, and the exclusive right to all the proceeds realized therefrom, upon which, however, the royalty prescribed by the regulations shall be paid.

The said (A. B.) shall be entitled to the use of so much of the water naturally flowing through or past his (or their) claim, and not already lawfully appropriated, as shall be necessary for the due working thereof, and to drain his (or their) claim, free of charge.

This grant does not convey to the said (A. B. any right of ownership in the soil covered by the said claim, and the said grant shall lapse and be forfeited unless the claim is continuously and in good faith worked by the said (A. B.) or his (or their) associates.

The rights hereby granted are those laid down in the aforesaid mining regulations, and no more, and are subject to all the provisions of the said regulations, whether the same are expressed herein or not.

.....
Mining Recorder.

FORM J.—CERTIFICATE OF THE ASSIGNMENT OF A
PLACER MINING CLAIM.

No.

Department of the Interior,

Agency 18...

This is to certify that (B. C.) of has (or have) filed an assignment in due form dated 18..., and accompanied by a registration fee of two dollars, of the grant to (A. B.) of of the right to mine in (here insert description of claim) for one year from the 18...

This certificate entitles the said (B. C.) to all the rights and privileges of the said (A. B.) in respect to the claim assigned, that is to say, to the exclusive right of entry upon the said claim for the miner-like working thereof and the construction of a residence thereon, and the exclusive right to all the proceeds realized therefrom (upon which, however, the royalty prescribed by the regulations shall be paid), for the remaining portion of the year for which the said claim was granted to the said (A. B.) that is to say, until the day of 18...

The said (B. C.) shall be entitled to the use of so much of the water naturally flowing through or past his (or their) claim and not already lawfully appropriated, as shall be necessary for the due working thereof and to drain his claim, free of charge.

This grant does not convey to the said (B. C.) any right of ownership in the soil covered by the said claim, and the said grant shall lapse and be forfeited unless the claim is continuously and in good faith worked by the said (B. C.) or his (or their) associates.

The rights hereby granted are those laid down in the Yukon Placer Mining Regulations, and no more, and are subject to all the provisions of the said regulations, whether the same are expressed herein or not.

.....
Mining Recorder.

DIAGRAM No. 1.
PLAN OF CREEK OR GULCH CLAIM.



DIAGRAM No. 2.
PLAN SHEWING SIDE BOUNDARIES LESS THAN
100 FEET APART

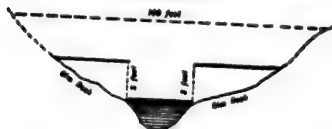


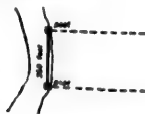
DIAGRAM No. 3
SECTIONAL PLAN OF A RIVER CLAIM



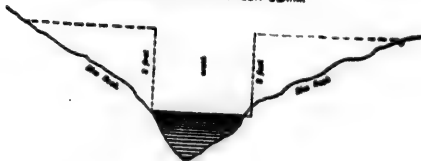
DIAGRAM No. 4
SHEWING HOW CLAIMS ARE TO BE STAKED
PLAN OF A CREEK OR GULCH CLAIM



PLAN OF A RIVER CLAIM



SECTIONAL PLAN OF A CREEK CLAIM.



SECTIONAL PLAN OF A GULCH CLAIM.



BUSINESS OUTLOOK. OPPORTUNITIES FOR LABOR, ETC.

There is no man in the Yukon basin who has a more comprehensive understanding of the abnormal conditions existing there than Capt. John J. Healey, manager of the North American Transportation and Trading Company. Captain Healey, who for many years was a resident of Fort Benton, Mont., has had a varied experience on the frontier, and has proved his courage on many occasions, from encounters with the Blackfeet and Piegiens to engagements, as sheriff of Choteau County, with Missouri River and Yellowstone "rustlers." He entered this field in 1892, as one of the organizers of the great company of which he is now manager, having previously for six years been a partner in the trading post of Healey & Wilson, at Dyea. No better text for this chapter could be chosen than the following statement, which was taken stenographically from Captain Healey, at Dawson, on September 25, 1897:

In regard to the business outlook of this country, I would say that people who are organizing to come here to engage in commercial enterprises should understand that it takes two years' capital to do one year's business. They cannot come in here and secure returns in one year. Such persons should also understand that they cannot build boats and get here the same year. We have tried it three years in succession and have failed each time. The difficulties to be overcome are too great.

There is another point to be taken into consideration in comparing prices here with those outside, and that is that we can not effect a dollar's worth of marine or fire insurance this side of St. Michaels. We have to carry our own marine, fire, and ice risks on the Yukon, and not many people are willing to put their capital into enterprises of this kind. We are carrying our own insurance because we can not help ourselves. Of course we insure on salt water as far as we can.

In my opinion there is a good field for day labor in the country. There is mineral of all kinds from coast to coast. Take Alaska from the southeastern coast, skirting around the Bering Sea and the Arctic Ocean, it is all a mineral range. You can not go anywhere but you will find minerals of all kinds. The trouble is in furnishing supplies under present conditions. The country is so vast that it will take years to supply it with food stations. The navigable streams, it is true, will be first utilized; but both Governments must organize a system of roads from these streams into the interior. They must construct roads into the Rockies on the north and east side of the Yukon and into the Alaskan Range on the south and west. If we had a force of people, whether military, police, or engineers, that would devote their time to building these trails and roads, I think the reindeer could be introduced here and utilized to good advantage. I believe the reindeer will be the coming pack horse of this country.

There is another thing to which I would like to call the attention of the Government. I have thought it over often, but have not yet formulated my suggestions. The most destitute native race on earth to-day are the Indians on the lower Yukon. For 300 miles from the mouth of that stream the principal subsistence of the native population consists of fish and oil. As you come higher up the river the condition of the Indians improves. They were in a wretched condition until we came into the country and gave them an opportunity to earn a little money by cutting wood for our steamers. Our Government ought to do something for those Indians. I am not an advocate of Indian agencies or anything of that kind. I do not believe in keeping the Indians in idleness, but the Government can utilize their services, and this can be done by making mail carriers of them and employing them to cut trails, and a native military organization might be established in the lower Yukon country. They are the best workers on earth, and the cost would be insignificant. All they want is a little flour, tea, and tobacco, and these can be laid down very cheaply by the transportation companies. Such a utilization of the services of these people would be of great benefit not only to them but to the government. Under present conditions many of them die of starvation every winter. The Indians farther up the river are better off, because they work around the mines. They have abandoned the fur trade and are engaged in mining, packing, and hunting. They can get from 50 to 75 cents a pound for all the game they kill.

In regard to the outlook in Alaska, I will say that there is an abundance of low-grade diggings in that country at Forty Mile, Birch Creek, Minook, Seventy Mile, Coal Creek, and American Creek that will support thousands of men when they are ready to work for \$7 or \$8 a day. There are large tracts of country that will pay those wages. In some of the claims they can work but three months in the year, while in others they can work all the year round. In the mines where they ground-sluice the season is sometimes quite short, but in the drift diggings, which are above water line, they can work the year round.

There is no doubt that there is room here, in work and prospecting, for all the idle miners in the United States. A great many of them will be disgusted when they come here and will not remain and prospect on account of the radical change from the conditions to which they have been accustomed. They have to be able-bodied and act as their own pack horses, and of the men who have been used to riding a cayuse through the mountains and taking a pack animal with them not one in ten will stay in this country, wading through the muck, brush, and moss and fighting the mosquitoes. In order to succeed here a man must have an iron nerve and constitution, and those who are not so constituted should remain away. It is going to require slow, hard prospecting to develop our resources. You can not see anything; everything is covered by moss, vegetation, and brush. There are no prairies, but it is all an undergrowth of brush and timber. The country has not been prospected at all as it should be. Prospectors follow up the rivers in boats as long as they can, and if they leave their boats at all it is only for a day, with a little lunch on their backs, so that they can get back to their supplies. That is the only kind of prospecting that has been done. There is not a man in the country

who knows what is back from the river a hundred miles; there is not a man living that has been back a hundred miles from this water course to engage in systematic prospecting.

There is coal down about Cudahy and ten miles from there. There is a five-foot vein of fine coking coal within eighteen miles of here, about eight or ten miles from the river. There is coal on the American side, about fifty miles above Circle City. There is also coal below Circle City, near the Tanana.

Copper, asbestos, antimony, and galena abound, and there is a good deal of low-grade, base ore in the country. I have not seen any free-milling gold ore yet. In time, when labor and provisions become cheaper and the transportation companies can lay down supplies at reasonable prices, these low-grade ores are going to give employment to a great many miners. My opinion is that Alaska and the Northwest Territory within fifty years will produce more minerals than all the other mineral regions of the country put together. I may be visionary, but this is my opinion, based on personal observation. The Tanana Valley will astonish the world even more than the Klondike has. That is the great copper district. The mines that can give employment to large numbers of men for long periods of time are the ones from which the country reaps the most substantial benefits.

About the labor question. I have had a great many men make application to me for assistance, saying that they were broke and wanted to secure an outfit for the winter. This was early in the season, a month or six weeks ago. I said to them, "Why don't you go to work?" They replied, "Well, we don't want to work for wages; we want to work on a lay." The wages in the mines are \$15 a day, and the wages of laborers are \$10 a day, and I told them that they could go to work for wages and in thirty days have enough to buy an outfit for a year; but still they would not go to work. I thought I would stop the thing. A few friends of mine have some claims, and they wanted some men at \$10 a day to work them; so I put up a notice, "Eight or ten men wanted; wages, \$10 a day." You know the claim owners have decided on paying a dollar an hour from the 1st of October, furnishing the men cabins to sleep in, the miners furnishing their own food. The first application I have had to work for \$10 a day, in response to that notice, came in to-day.

I advise the bringing in of silver coin. It is the medium which people use in traveling, in paying the Indians for their little services, etc. There is not a man traveling who does not want an ounce or two of dust changed into silver. Each Government ought to have an assayer, so that a man could take his gold dust to him and have it run into bullion; then that man could come to us with his gold, which would have the stamp of one of the Governments on it, and we could give him our check for it.

Captain Healey's statement is commended to the careful consideration of all who contemplate coming to this country either to engage in commercial enterprises or to participate in the uncertain pursuit of hidden treasure.

SAM C. DUNHAM.

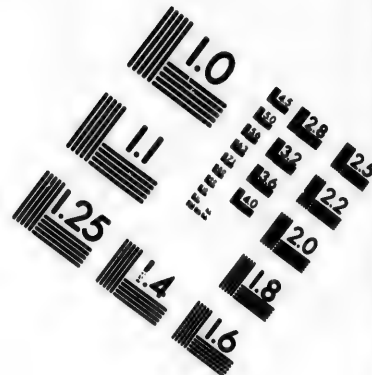
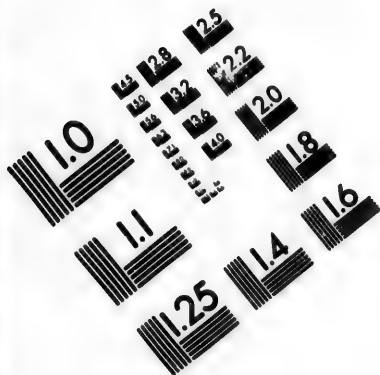
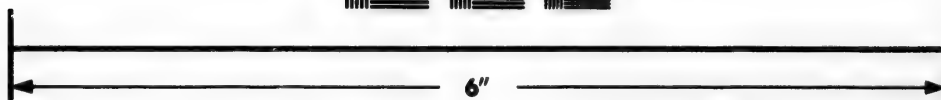
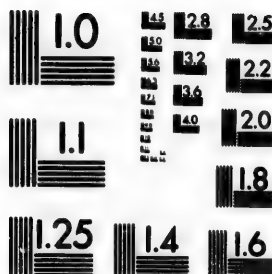


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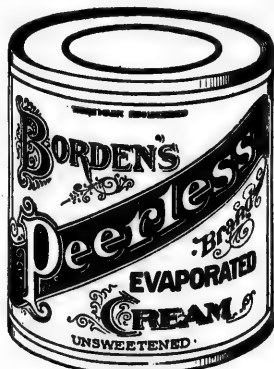


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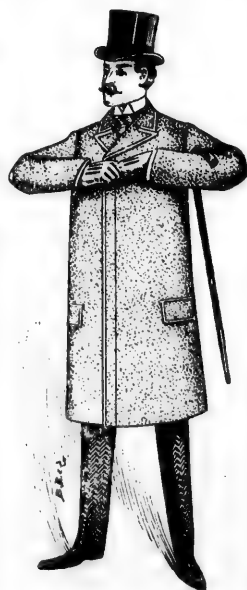
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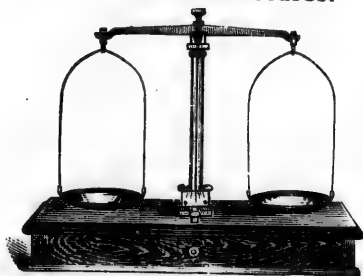
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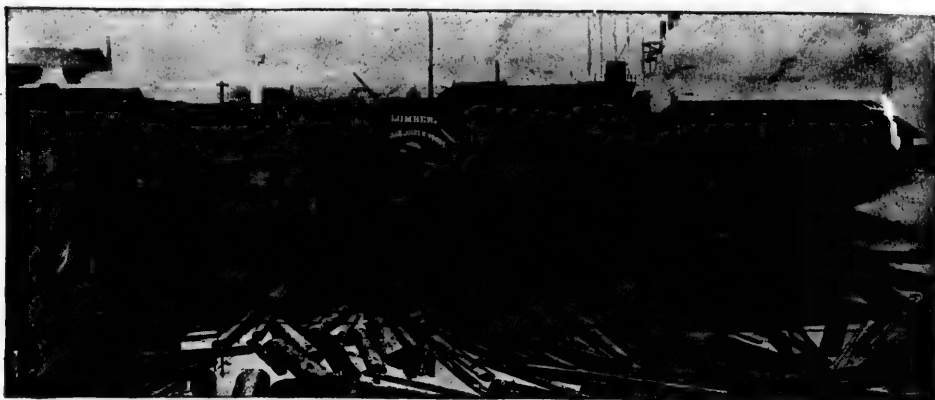
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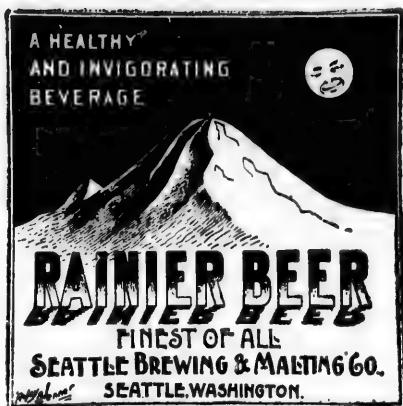
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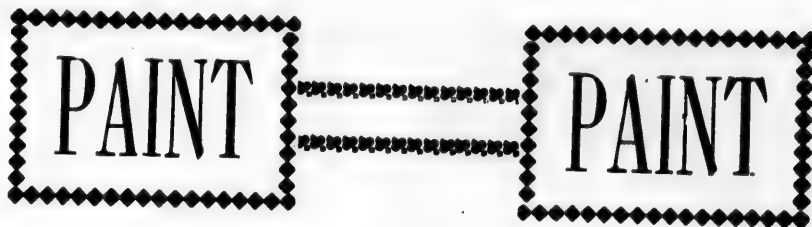
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